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NEVER FORGET

With Gratitude to Our Veterans



Area NIE students celebrate Veterans Day

By Tammy Witherspoon
Advertiser NIE
Coordinator

This is the sixth year of the Veterans Project, which is part of our Newspapers in Education Program.

The Veterans Project aims to connect students with veterans and their stories, and hopefully increase their understanding of the services and sacrifices the military has made for our country.

The Eldon seventh graders in Nathaniel Caudel's class interviewed six veterans for the projects, including Don Smith, Jay Harms, Bob Van Stedum, Mike Cummings and John and June Beard.

Our focus with this project is getting the kids to write, and write critically. Once again they rose to the task.

Mr. Caudel's class also wrote thank you letters to their speakers, which were much appreciated.



Tuscumbia Miller County R-III seventh and eighth grade students wrote letters of gratitude to veterans.

Eugene Cole R-V fifth graders wrote acrostic poems about Veterans Day and I believe you will be pleasantly surprised by them.

Iberia, High Point, St. Elizabeth and Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School students found themselves being interviewed about what they knew about Veterans Day and the veterans in their

family.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School students also wrote acrostic poems.

The Advertiser thanks all the teachers and administrators who work with us every year on this project, which keeps getting better and better.

We also thank Governor Mike Parson and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe who have been a part of the project since it started. It helps students see leader lead by example when honoring veterans.


Thank you to our sponsors. We could not do this project without your support. You made this possible.

I hope you enjoy this project and it helps us (in this increasingly scary world) to understand and appreciate our veterans and our soldiers a little better.

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Eldon seventh grade students interview Don Smith

By Brooklyn Johannes

Don Smith the great did 4 years of training so he could make it so he could actually fight and be in the army. He was serving for 25 years, he started doing the army at 22 years old. After the army, he earned a star medal for his great work and risked his life for us and America. Don Smith's rank was a captain! Don signed his life away for a while for this country.

His dad was also in the army for a while, so Don wanted to do it too! Don Smith went to college at West Point. Don Smith started serving in the army at the age of 22. From 1982-1986 he did training.

He left his mom and dad and his siblings so he could go to the army for a while. His siblings were in a different state/country. The type of weapon he used was a 45 caliber pistol M1 tank unit gun! He served in New York, Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Georgia. He retired from the military in 1991.

The military found him whenever he was playing football because he was a good player. During the military, he ate a lot of kinds of food. He ate brown packaged foods, not that much warm food, he never got freshly baked food, and mainly he got really dry foods. He made lots of friends and also made lots of buddies. When you are in the military you don't sleep that much, he usually sleeps in desert holes, the ground mostly.

Don Smith is married and has three kids. He feels great because he knows what he did and it was a great thing, he served our country, and he is a great man. He enjoyed the army and he would definitely rejoin the Army if really wanted to.

By Giana Blankenship

Don Smith, a retired veteran that we interviewed. Don Smith served in the Army as a combat engineer. He began serving in 1986 and retired in 1991. Don Smith did not grow up in Missouri, he grew up in Frederick Town, Ohio. It is good to remember Don Smith and his time while serving.

This veteran spent four years at West Point Military Academy where he played football and spent five years on active duty. Don Smith faced the Russians in Germany in 1986-1989. After being deployed in Arabia for six months in the blazing heat of the desert; being 90 degrees in the morning and 120 degrees in the afternoon, I bet he was excited to be home. He fought during the Cold War in Iraq. Don Smith was a captain, earning lots of ribbons and medals, but the highest award he received was a bronze medal.

He had to make many sacrifices while he was in the military, so that made it even more difficult for him. No veteran probably couldn't get much sleep while constantly moving and living in different places. Suddenly, he got called to be deployed in Arabia so he had to leave his family behind. The night he left to go to Arabia, he got engaged.

Being a combat engineer meant he worked with lots of explosives while serving. The days when he left never knew if he was going to get a good bed or just a small cot, they always went to bed late and woke up early. The Berlin Wall falling was a huge moment in history. Guess who was there? Don Smith. The food was sometimes good in the army, but in Arabia, he just got the same packets of food for six months.

Don Smith retired in 1991. He said he would go back and serve again. After being in the military for five years and never getting much sleep, he says he hasn't had a total of 8 hours of sleep since then. Don Smith says the best part about

being in the military was the lifelong friends he made and the ones he still talks to to this day. This veteran says he loves anything outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Don Smith did amazing things while in the army that should most definitely be remembered.

By Grace Yamry

Veteran Don Smith, who was born and raised in Fredericktown Ohio, is a well-known Veteran in our community. Don Smith played football during his college years for the army at West Point. "People always ask what inspired me to join the military, but the military sort of found me," Don said in a recent interview with middle school students. Don did take the invite and joined the military. Joining the military was usual in Don's family. His grandfather, father, and Don himself were all involved. Don is important because, he made the decision to join the military and went through with it.

During the time Don had served, he served as a combat engineer. A combat engineer is involved in a team that guides people to fighting positions and wire entanglements. Don was also ranked as a military captain. He has also been to many places outside of the U.S. like Europe, Russia, and Iraq.

Joining the military isn't always great though, you still have to make sacrifices and leave things behind. Sadly, Don had to leave the most valuable thing behind, his family. Don had said leaving his mother behind was the worst part, but Don also had a fiance he had proposed to before leaving. Don had also been deployed many times. One of the times Don said he would never forget was when he was coaching a football team. He got a call that he had been deployed, and he left. The worst part according to Don was sleep.

You barely got to sleep in the military, and when you did it wasn't comfortable. He also has trouble sleeping now because of it, and sleep is a huge sacrifice.

Don also used weapons. Some of the ones he used were Air 16 rifles, M1 tank unit missiles, and machine guns. "The food wasn't good either, I think most people were just happy when we got a hot meal," Don also said in a recent interview with middle school students.

Don made many sacrifices, and took chances by being in the military. His only son is also in the military. Don had said he would go back any day, but since he's retired from it he's glad to be home. So many people are proud of Don and appreciate his bravery.

By Hannah Rackers

Don Smith wanted to join the army during his senior year of high school. His dad was a veteran so he wanted to take after his dad. Before he got deployed he was on his way to football practice. He didn't know what was happening, he had just got engaged a day before he left but he also left his mom, dad, sister, brother, and fiance behind. His first deployment was in Europe. He became captain of the army.

He came back home after a few months to a year he thought everything was way different from before he left. He doesn't sleep like he used to before. Life has just been different since he came home from the army. His life has been a lot more different from when he went into the army. He learned a lot in the army.

He is now happily married with three kids. His son is

now taking after him in the Army. When he goes some where he has people thinking him for his service. He likes to go around telling about his time in the Army so others have ideas just in case they wanna join. He tells everyone he would definitely go back and serve for his country again. He is also retired now but he's happy his son is taking after him.

By Hannah Vaughan

Don Smith is a retired veteran. He lived and grew up in Fredericktown, Ohio. Now he lives in Eldon. He has a wife and two kids. One of his kids is currently serving in the Army like he did. He was a combat engineer and created and worked on many things in the military. He fought for us and the people he loved that he had to leave behind. He left behind several people that he loved.

He left his mom and dad behind and his sister, brother, and cousin. The night he was going to the military he got engaged. He left behind his loved ones to fight in the military/ army. He served for many many years.

He said it was amazing and he misses being in the army. He never really got hurt he only had a couple of scars. He got to use machine guns, tanks, pistols, and other big guns. He served in the war from 1982-1986.

He has a wife and three kids. One of his kids is in the army now today. He is a retired veteran and fought for us. He said if he had the choice to go back he would go back and fight again. He says that he loved the army... loves it.

By Jason Gaddy

Did you know Don Smith is a veteran? He grew up in Fredericktown, Ohio, and went to West Point after he graduated high school to play for the football team. But during West Point, he fell in love with the military and was a combat engineer. When he was a kid, his dad was in the military, which inspired him to join. I am grateful he was in the military and protecting our country, and I believe we should all thank him for his service.

During the war, he was deployed in Europe, New York, Texas, Kentucky, and more European states. Also, if he could serve again, he would return and serve before anything else. Not only that but while serving he was given a Bronze Star, multiple ribbons, and medals.

He was deployed in 1989 and had to leave his mom, dad, and girlfriend. Then he got engaged one day before he got deployed. Today, he has a son in Seattle. "The best thing is making friends," Don Smith said in our interview.

Because he slept horribly in the military and woke up early and stayed up till midnight, this caused him to not go to sleep and wake up early to this day. He used an m16, a rifle, worked with artillery tank guns, and was good with explosives. During his free time in the military, he would read.

His son is now training to be in the army. And if Don Smith could return to serve again he would do that. To this day he hunts, shoots, and fishes. So This wraps the interview and this is all about "Don Smith."

By Jorja Barnett

Don Smith is an average man with an interesting story. He was a veteran in the army, but why did he want to be in the army? When he was growing up he wanted to be in the Army just like his dad. He went into military school for 4 years before graduating and becoming a veteran but he also came from a little town in



Talking to students about his service-Former Eldon City Administrator Don Smith recently talked to Eldon seventh graders about his military service for the Veterans Project.

Ohio called Fredericktown, Ohio.

He played football, and that's where it happened he got recruited into the Army. He packed his bags and got sent off. He was in the Army from 1992 to 1996.

When he has free time he likes to do stuff outside like swimming, fishing, and many other outside activities.

He was deployed several times and did not always have the comfort of sleeping on a nice comfy cot or bed all the time with a lovely 8 hours of sleep. No, sometimes it was a cot or it was ground as your bed and rock with your pillow and only 30 minutes of rest instead of eight hours.

When he was serving he was deployed a lot. He was deployed in Germany for 3 years while his wife was pregnant with his son. When he got to go home after deployment it was one of the best feelings ever, but it wasn't long before he had to be deployed again.

Not many years later after his son was born he ended up retiring so he could settle down with his family. He left as a captain in 1986. He would go back and serve again but for now, that's his son's job. His son is in the army right now serving for his country just like his dad did.

By Jozlan Pawelczak

Don Smith is a veteran who served from 1986 to 1991. When he was a kid he lived in Fredericktown, Ohio with his mom, dad, and two siblings. His dad was in the military and so Don was inspired to join. Don joined the military after college at the age of 21.

Once Don joined he went through years of training in different areas. He ended his military career as a captain. He won lots of ribbons and even got a Bronze Star. Don fought in two major wars, the Cold War and Desert Storm. When he was in the military he was an engineer, which means he toyed with explosives and stuff.

When Don left for the military, he knew he would have to leave behind loved ones.

Don left his family, his friends, and all the things he loved. Don had gotten engaged the night he was deployed, and he had to leave his fiancee.

While Don was in the military he used many different weapons. He used air16 rifles, missiles, and tank units. His dad was in the

military. Right now Don's son is serving in the Navy working.

Don has three children and a wife. He said that he still has friends that he made in the military. He said he would go back if he could. Don said that the best thing about joining the military is the friends you make and the people you are fighting for.

A Hero that Will Never Be Forgotten By Kimberly Russell

Most children dream about being some big hero when they grow up, someone everyone loves and adores. As children, everyone is told at one point or another that superheroes don't exist, but whoever told you that is wrong. They do exist and they're all around us. What makes a hero a hero is that they protect us by putting themselves in harm's way even if they aren't remembered for it, for instance Don Smith.

Don was a combat engineer, which is basically someone who determines, builds, and blows things up. Thanks to his hard work he was given many awards one of which was a Bronze Medal. He grew up in Fredericktown, Ohio and graduated from West Point in 1986.

He was the third generation to serve time in the military in his family. Don was ranked a captain. His father was his hero, he said that his father was the toughest and yet gentlest person he's ever known. His father was also in the army. Don never regretted his time serving.

Sleeping was hard; they rarely had beds, often having to sleep on the ground or going for days without sleeping. Don says "We slept when we could, where we could".

Don got engaged the night he deployed. He told his girlfriend that he might not come back but if he did could they get married and she said yes. Working conditions were sometimes great and other times terrible. It mostly depended on where he was stationed at. From all his time in the military, he believes the best part of it was the buddies and friends he made. Don was never afraid from what he can remember although he was always worried that maybe the people he was fighting for weren't worth it.

He spent most of his time gone, writing to his family, or sleeping. Don mentioned that

it's always far harder on a mother than almost anyone else because that's their child who's serving and risking their life for a bunch of strangers.

Now Don Smith is a father to three and has one in the military. He deeply enjoyed his time in the military and has said he would be proud to serve again if he were given the chance. Don has said that if you want to join the military expect to be challenged and impressed.

From every hero a child remembers, sometimes the best ones are not known, but instead forgotten, but a forgotten hero is still going to be remembered by someone.

By Sophia Hawkins

Don Smith is a respected veteran for his service. Don grew up in Frederickson Ohio. While growing up his father was in the military. After high school, he went to West Point to play football, and serve his country. He gained many life experiences, sacrificed many things, and did hard service that others might stray from.

Don is often thanked for his service. He trained in the army for 4 years in 2 different places. After his training Don was a captain. Then he was deployed to Germany for 3 years, and while he was there he witnessed the Berlin Wall falling. As Well as being deployed to Germany he was also deployed to Operation Desert Storm.

Don made many sacrifices while serving in the army, and one thing he sacrificed was sleep. He also got engaged right before he left for one of his deployments. Along with excitement he also felt worry about the people he left. Don says the most significant sacrifice is for mothers because their child leaves them.

Don had many good experiences in the army such as the friends he made. He often had to get up and go no matter what he was doing if he got deployed. Most people think all the experiences are bad, but it's not true.

Don Smith is a respected veteran who served in the army, made many sacrifices, and learned many things. Don said in the interview he would go back to the army if he could. At the moment his son is in the military. Today in his free time Don still enjoys going hunting. Don Smith is a hero who deserves to be honored.



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Jay Harms speaks to daughter's class

Jay Harms

By Addison Mistler

Jay Harms was a great veteran who helped our country tremendously, which is why we must thank him and people like him. Jay was a veteran who worked on and fixed helicopters. He grew up in the Eldon/Jefferson City area. We need to thank and honor our veterans like Jay Harms who risked their lives to save ours.

At 5:30 in the morning, they start their day, the first thing that he does is work out. He served for 10 years as an e-5 sergeant. His job was to fix and check the safety of the helicopters. He wanted to join the army because he wanted to work on helicopters and serve our country.

He had to leave behind his friends and family. He didn't have much of a choice of what to do or where to go. Also, he sacrificed his life to save ours. He sacrificed his life from 1987 to 1997.

He got to travel a lot which he said was a great experience for him. He got to do things that normally people who weren't in the army would not get to do. He had to wake up early in the morning to start his day.

Now he has a very successful as a lawyer. He has 2 kids and a wife. He still likes working with metal things like that from the military. We need to help and honor all of the veterans and people who served in the military because they risked their lives for ours.

By Braylin Russell

Jay Harms is a veteran who served 10 years to protect us and has done a lot for us.

He grew up in Eldon Missouri, with 6 siblings. He joined the military when he was just 17 in 1987. The reason he joined is because he always loved helicopters and their history and always wanted to work on or with them.

In the military, he was a sergeant, and he served until he was 27 when he retired in 1997. He traveled and served in many places including Kansas, Israel, Washington DC, Jefferson City, etc. While he was serving he called to check the safety of helicopters. He enlisted, and he had thoughts about going back and probably would, but almost everything is different now, and just like we probably wouldn't understand what he went through serving, he wouldn't understand what we went through after everything that has changed.

Now, he doesn't keep in touch with anyone he used to serve in the military, but they are still like brothers or sisters. If they bump into each other 30 years later it will still be like they never left each other's side. Even though he tells us it's very positive it's still a sacrifice that he was willing to go wherever he was sent.

While serving, he got to fly in helicopters, and build things. He loved traveling to all the places because you don't get to do that every day in life normally. It was one of the best parts. Everyone woke up at 5:30 a.m. every morn-

ing to do their exercises and jobs and got a 1-hour break every day.

Now, he still lives in Eldon Missouri with his two kids Titus, and Emily Harms, and his wife Gabriella Harms. He still likes hunting, fishing, guns, woodwork, and metalwork, and he got to do most of that in the military. He is also now a lawyer. I am writing this because I want to share others' stories they have shared with me because they have done a lot for us and we should share their stories and thank them.

By Emily Harms

Jay Harms is a veteran who helped our country, but to me he is also my dad. Jay Harms grew up in Jefferson City and joined the military in 1987, where he served as a helicopter mechanic. Jay was a helicopter mechanic. He also had to work the machine guns and had to load supplies. He was stationed all over the world including Egypt, Israel, and Washington DC. He went in the military because he wanted to serve and show his love for our country.

Jay had to leave his family and friends very young. After he joined the military he had to give up his freedom and follow his higher's instructions. This must be the hardest part of being in the military.

Jay had lots of experience because he was in the military for 10 years while stationed in several countries. Even though he gave up his freedom and family he stated he had a good experience. He served his country, saw a lot of different countries, and attended college. He flew on several helicopters and worked with guns.

He lives with his wife and two kids, in Eldon. He is a lawyer whose favorite thing to do is adoption cases. He loves serving his community on several Boards, like the Ambulance Board, School Board, and other community organizations.

By Gauge Kramer

This is not just a story, it's a story about a dedicated veteran; it's a story about a hero to our country who has served our country well.

His name is Jay Harms, and he grew up in Missouri. He was raised in Eldon with 6 siblings. He likes helicopters as well, more like he loves them, moreover, he was enlisted in the Army, when he was only 17 years old.

He has traveled to many places in his time as a sergeant, some of which were Kansas, Egypt, and Iraq. He served 10 years in the military, and his service ended in 1997. When he went to the military he enlisted, and he didn't just go there because his parents had, it was because he wanted to serve his country: his home.

In all truth, if he could go back he would, and that's how you know he's genuinely one of the heroes of our country. His training was tough; he had to wake up at 5:00 am sharp and even after that, he had to start working on planes, helicopters, and also plane engines, but he also did

physical labor.

He got to use many guns in his time in the military that most people would never be able to use in their lifetime, and some of the guns he got to use were machine guns, gun turrets, etc.

When he joined the military he flew on helicopters and had zero amount of fear for heights, but when he finished serving he became scared of heights in general. When he left for the military, he had to leave friends and family behind. After serving many years in the military, he is living his life to the fullest.

He enjoys many hobbies like fishing, hunting, and building with metal and other materials. Now he has a wife and kids, and he is a lawyer full time. In conclusion, he is living in his best health and happiness.

By Hope Truster

Jay Harms joined the military in 1987 and retired in 1997. Growing up he lived in Eldon his whole childhood. Also growing up he had six siblings. When he joined the military he wanted to work on helicopters. Jay joined when he was 17 years old, and he got to work on helicopters for a long time so he knew what he was doing.

Jay served for 10 years, and he fixed helicopters for a long time. When they were broken or not working he would be there to fix them. His rank was E5, and if he could go back he would.

He left his friends and family behind when he had to leave, but they knew why he had to go. He had no choice but to go into the military, and even though he tells us it was very positive it was still a sacrifice that he was willing to go wherever he was sent.

Jay Harms traveled to a lot of places, meanwhile, he built a lot of things while working in the military. Jay flew in a helicopter, combat maneuvers, and as a result, he got to spot and observe enemy positions.

Jay now likes to go hunting, shoot guns, fish, work with metal, and weld and work with wood. He has a wife and two kids, his kids' names are Emma and Titus, and his wife's name is Gabriela."

By Kayden Reardon

Jay Harms is a veteran and has settled in Eldon since retiring. He was raised in Eldon. The branch that he served in was the Army. He joined the Army because of his interest in helicopters. Harms has contributed a lot during the times in which he served, and he deserves to be recognized and honored for his accomplishments while serving in the Army. When asked if he would serve again Harms said, "Without a doubt." He retired in 1997 and met his wife four years later. While in the army, he reached sergeant E-5 rank.

During his time in the army, he had to wake up at 5 every morning for basic training, which was rough. When he was serving, he was fighting for the country's independence. He had to leave behind friends when he was deployed.



Speaking to his daughter's class-Veteran Jay Harms was glad to speak to his seventh grader Emily's class because he said he would always take the opportunity to embarrass her.

His hobbies while in the Army consisted of building things, hunting, and fishing. He usually got put in the chopper gunner position in helicopters. Training then was very rough. He now has a wife and two kids. He got a good job as a lawyer, and he is now really into woodworking for fun. Jay Harms has served our country and deserves to be honored for his accomplishments.

Life Now

Life now for Jay Harms. He is a lawyer for the state of Missouri. He has two kids and a wife. In Jay's words "I am very thankful for my family, they have helped me come far". Although Jay traveled in the army he settled and back down in small town Eldon.

By Lillian Conner

Jay Harms was a veteran who served in the military. He grew up and was raised in Eldon and still lives in Eldon after he was done with the military.

When he was just 17 years old he started in the military. He started in 1987 when he woke up at 5:30 Every morning to do an activity, then went to his job. He started in Jefferson City and went to Kansas to other countries and states. Harms was a sergeant from 2007 to 2008 then to e5. Jay-Harms wanted to be in the military because he always wanted to be in the military and to serve his country. Harms was a great veteran who served his country.

While in the military Jay Harms worked on Helicopters and big machinery. He retired in 1997 as a sergeant ranked E5. Now he is a lawyer for the state of Missouri.

Service

While in the Armed Forces, Jay Harms worked on helicopters as a mechanic. He also got to fly airplanes, helicopters, and big machines. Although, working on big things can be very dangerous.

Sacrifice

One of the many sacrifices Jay Harms had to leave family and friends. We can all agree sleep is well-needed. But when Jay left for the military that all went away. He had to wake up at 5:00 a.m. every morning. Knowing he was risking his life, he loved what he did.

Experience

Jay always found the army fascinating. And once he got

to go do what he loved. What he was doing was very unsafe. He made how his life is now and he says "I wouldn't change anything because it got me to where I'm at now".

liked to hunt, fish, and build things with his hands and still does, and now he's a lawyer. This was Jay Harms, a great veteran who served his country.

Everyone make sure to say thank you to Jay Harms and all our veterans.

By Macie Schwartz

Jay Harms is a Veteran who grew up in Eldon, Missouri. Jay joined the Military in 1987 and later retired in 1997. Jay Harms served in the Military for over 10 years. Growing up Jay had 6 siblings and joined the army at just 17. After retiring he returned back to Eldon and started a family. Jay Harms was a very important person, because of the role he played while in the army.

Jay was a Sergeant while he served. He traveled everywhere just like he loved and some of the places he traveled to were Kansas, Israel, Egypt, and his journey ended in Panama. Jay said If he had the chance, he would go back to the Military if he could. Jay left when he was 17 and made a sacrifice, leaving his family.

The sacrifice Jay made was for his country, and even though he left his family, he came back alive knowing he helped many. While the army was still not so great Jay still had a way of having fun. He loved exploring whether it was on foot or by vehicle. Building and creating were his specialties.

Jay now has a wife and two children. The oldest daughter is Emily Harms, and his son is Titus Harms, and his wife, Gabrielle. He enjoys hunting and fishing. Working with wood and metal are also things he enjoys. After retiring from the Military, Jay chose to be a Lawyer. Jay Harms is still important to this day.

After 10 years of being in the military, he got out in 1997, after 10 years of being out of the army he met his wife Gabriela and has 2 kids now. When Harms was in the military for his spare time he



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A message from Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe

"Here Rests, in Honored Glory, an American Soldier Known but to God"

In front of the monument upon which this is inscribed walks a soldier. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In the heat of the summer and cold of winter. Twenty-one steps, in twenty-one seconds, to the East. A halt, followed by a ninety-degree turn to the North and another pause for twenty-one seconds. Then, a ninety-degree turn to the West, followed by twenty-one steps in twenty-one seconds. Then, another turn to the North, followed by another pause for twenty-one seconds. This process is precisely repeated until the end of the watch, when another soldier takes

over. Simple, dignified, and reverent.

No one visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery can miss the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Regiment keeping watch over the graves of unidentified casualties from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Where an unidentified casualty from Vietnam was once interred, there is now a commemoration for those service members still missing in Vietnam. All are now at rest, even as they are rightly guarded and honored.

Only a tiny fraction of a percentage of Americans will ever have the opportunity to serve as members of "The Old Guard," as the 3rd Infantry



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Regiment is known. Yet, every one of us has the opportunity and the obligation to show our respect and appreciation for the men and women who have sacrificed so much on our behalf. This is the purpose and the intent of Veterans Day—to honor those who served, whether in war or peace, at home or abroad.

I have had the good fortune to learn from, work for, and work with veterans from all branches whose service

ranged from peacetime to war, from here at home to the far ends of the earth. These men and women sacrificed in their own way and left their time in uniform entirely different from when they entered. They learned discipline. They learned self-denial. They learned a deeper sense of what freedom means. They learned to work together. They learned to devote themselves to a purpose greater than themselves. These characteristics made them better friends, employers, employees, and community members.

On this Veterans Day, I will spend time thinking about these men and women with gratitude for their willingness

to serve. I will also be grateful for their impact on my life and for letting me learn from their selflessness and sacrifice. Just as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is perpetually guarded, so should our thanks be to the men and women who have served to keep our nation free for generations.

Enjoy this day, your day, with the rightful pride of having served well and with the memories of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines you served alongside. Please know that you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers, not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

John and June Beard: An Air Force love story

John and June Beard
By Austin Lee

John and June Beard are two incredible people, and here's their story. Growing up, June Beard had 6 siblings. June Beard grew up in Elmira, New York, and enlisted in the Air Force to make a difference. June served from 1973 to 1977. Here is their story about their service, sacrifice, and experience.

Both June and John Beard served at the same base in California. June carried an M-16 that was first designed in 1959. They didn't have a specific job in the Air Force; as a result, they were usually doing what was needed at that moment.

Their sacrifice is immense even though they go through any major war. They still had to leave their families for long periods. That meant that every time they left home it would put their lives in harm's way and their comrades' lives. They also had to go through very harsh training. We can only thank them for their sacrifice.

June Beard said that you have to have a powerful mindset to serve in the military. June and John met in the military and are now married. June also liked marching, racquetball, and bowling. They said they would absolutely go back and serve again if they could. That's just the amazing people they are.

Their life isn't as eventful as when they were in the military. They still have habits from when they were in the military, like doing ordinary things perfectly. They said that their greatest honor was that they got to serve in the military. When they get recognized as military veterans they get many thanks.

June Beard
By Ava Phillips

June Beard is a veteran who has stories while she served. She was born in Elmira in New York state. Growing up, she always wanted to join the military ever since she could remember at least. Her uncle and aunt were the ones who inspired her to join it. This is what she did while in the military, the branch she entered, and her experience.

June served in the Air Force branch from 1970 to 1974. Her rank was a sergeant. June also did have a gun called the M16, but she was never up in the front lines.

She had 6 brothers and sisters that she had to leave while joining the Air Force. Since she and her siblings are very close, it was the hardest part to leave home. She also had to leave her parents, aunt, and uncle.

During training, June helped with making beds and shining shoes. During the Vietnam War, June volunteered to go to Vietnam to help. They asked her to go to Clark Air Force base in the Philippines for training since they were only taking medical fields to the war. She accepted to go to Clark Air Force.

Now, she is married to John Beard who is also a veteran who served in the Air Force. When they wear their hats in public they get so many "thank you" from many people. In June's late 40s, when she was working as a nurse, the Air Force asked her if she wanted to come back and serve again. She asked if she could just stay in America since she was a firm believer in protecting her country, but when the Air Force said no, she declined the offer of coming back because they had started a family. She was honored that they asked her to come back. Although she would want to stay with her family, she did say if war breaks out she and John would come back.

John and June Beard
By Barron Ahart

I am writing this article to show my gratitude towards June and John Beard. June and John Beard both served during the Vietnam War. June grew up in Elmira, New York, whereas John grew up here in Eldon, Missouri. They both served in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974.

They both wanted to join the military, so they enlisted. June's job in the military was as an administration specialist, on the other hand, John worked in the finance field. June also got to work with the colonel. June was deployed twice in her time serving once to the Philippines and once to Taiwan. June thought she was very lucky to be included in Operation Homecoming, where she interviewed prisoners of war who were rescued.

June and John met in the Air Force. They both thought that the best part of the military was the people you got to meet. June had to leave behind her 6 siblings and parents. John also had to leave behind his parents. John still has friends to this day that he met in the military. June offered to go to the front line in Vietnam, but they wouldn't let her. June and John both had to make plenty of sacrifices while serving.

They were both trained to use an m16, however, they didn't use it during their time serving. Every day in training they went to physical training and classes. They both slept in a dorm-like room with other people. They both liked to play any sport they could while serving.

June and John now have 3 daughters, who all have husbands. Even after the military, they still have habits they do every day, like making their bed every day and hanging their clothes a certain way. They both said, "I would come back and serve again if I could stay in the U.S."

By Brooklyn Hill

John and June Beard sacrificed their life for us while in the Air Force. They both served from 1970 to 1974. They have been living in Eldon for about 49 years. One thing they said that will stick with me was "The best part about serving was to serve." They've made many sacrifices while going into the Air Force.

Growing up, June lived in Elmira New York. As a kid, she always wanted to be in the Air Force. John moved here when he was 3 years old in 1952. When June was leaving for the Air Force, she left 6 siblings, her parents, and a very special aunt and uncle. John left his almost 2-year-old daughter and wife at home.

They both worked in the Vietnam War. They also got married while serving in the Air Force. June enlisted in the Air Force because she always wanted to be in the Air Force, and wanted to travel, and John enlisted because he thought that he would soon be drafted into the Air Force. June's rank was sergeant, and John was a staff sergeant. While in the Air Force, June used an M16, and John used no weapon.

June rode a bus every day, while on the other hand, John drove his own vehicle. June felt well protected, getting walked to and from her dorm to the bus by a guard. She also had free food every day. They both said that the food was for the most part impressive, they had a wide variety of food that you would see in a restaurant. They both made some very good friends in the military, lots of whom John still talks to.

They now have 3 daughters, and 3 sons-in-law. They are grandparents to 9 grandkids, 4 from the oldest, 3 from the middle, and 2 from the youngest. They both still do some things they had to do in the Air Force. To this day,

they still gets lots of compliments from being in the Air Force. They both said that even now and in the future they would still go back and work for the military.

By Ethan Bennett

This article is written to recognize and honor June and John Beard for what they did for us and our country. June grew up in Elmira, New York, to eventually served in the Air Force, where she served as a nurse. She says that she always wanted and knew that she would serve our country, so when she was finally old enough she enlisted in 1973. This article will be about two people who sacrificed for our freedom.

June enlisted in the Air Force and served in Taiwan. In Taiwan, she was escorted everywhere she went by bodyguards. She got that privilege because she bonded with the people. Even though she didn't speak their language that didn't stop her from socializing with them. She and John both were assigned M16s for their guns. Later when she was retired she got an offer to return to the Air Force and serve again, she said she would have served again but they didn't let her stay in the U.S. where she wanted to stay to be with her family.

She also had to sacrifice lots of things to serve though. For example, she left her family at an important time to serve. She also risked her life and John risked his to give us the freedom that we are very much thankful for. She also had to clean the toilets, which is a big sacrifice itself.

She had lots of lifelong friends, and one she is always with to this day. She met her husband John in service, and she knew he was the one. They both love to go bowling and play racquetball together. Also, they learned why their mindset has to be stronger than ever. She stated, "Instructors are going to try to get you to quit, and people are going to try to cut you down, but you have to work through it and be strong."

There are also things/habits that they still do to this day. Like folding and hanging their clothes perfectly. Also, they make their bed perfectly too, like they had to in their time of serving. If they could serve where they wanted to they would go back and serve again. Those are some stories and reasons why June and John Beard deserve our respect.

By Jaelyn McClanahan

June and John Beard are two of many sacrificing their lives to protect ours. The reason for writing this article is to show gratitude and appreciation for them and many others. June grew up in Elmira, New York whereas John grew up in Eldon, Missouri 1,012 miles away from June. They never dreamed they would meet in the Air Force. John at the age of 21 and June at the age of 18 both enlisted in 1970, but for different reasons. June enlisted to do something meaningful for her country, however, John enlisted because he knew that at some point he was going to get drafted.

While in the Air Force, June was an administrator doing many jobs, meanwhile, John was working with military pay and making sure that if somebody moved to a different base all their records would go with them. June won a ribbon, similarly, John also won some awards such as two outstanding unit citations and a presidential unit citation. June and John served in the Vietnam War, but but neither went to Vietnam. June went to Afghanistan, the Philippines, and other places. On the other hand, John went to San Antonio, Texas for basic training. He also went to Whiteman Air Force Base



John and June Beard met in the United States Air Force-John and June Beard talked to Eldon seventh graders about their service and meeting in the Air Force.

close to Warrensburg

Even though John and June were happy to serve their country, it meant John had to leave his 2-year-old daughter, his wife at the time, and his friends and parents. June had to leave her 6 brothers and sisters, it was hard to leave them because she was the oldest and sometimes she would take care of them. It also meant June had to leave her parents and her aunt and uncle whom she was very close with.

While June was serving in her spare time she liked to bowl, play softball, racketball, really anything she could get into. In John's spare time he mostly just liked to play music. June used an m16 for basic training along with other little firearms similarly John used an m16 rifle just for basic training. John slept on metal racks in an open bay with about 25 people on each side of the dormitory, when he got to his duty station he lived off base because he was married at the time in a more homey arrangement until he got to Whiteman Air Base. When John got to Whiteman he had slept in a barracks in a room with one other person. Meanwhile, June slept in a dorm with two beds.

John and June have been married for 47 years. They have three daughters and three sons-in-law, or as they call them, "sons that are married to their daughters." John also has one daughter from his previous marriage. People say "Thank you for your service" all the time when they have their hats on. John would quickly go back to the military along with June, and June would go back if they needed anybody to do administration jobs. At the end of the day John and June both got to do something meaningful for their country.

By Ryder Rohwer

Our class's veterans were June and John Beard. June was born in Almyra, NY, and lived there her whole life. John has lived in Eldon pretty much his whole life. They both served in the Air Force for 4 years.

June served during the Vietnam War. Both of them served in the Air Force. June was part of Operation Homecoming during Vietnam. They would both join the military again if they could. June enlisted however John was

drafted to be in the Air Force. June was an administrator for the Air Force.

June was deployed to the Philippines and John stayed in America during his and her service. They both made lifelong friends in the military. June's sadly passed away and John still has one friend he talks to often. June wanted to do something meaningful so she joined the military.

One of John's hobbies today is hanging up his shirts with the buttons facing left. June and John both got M16 training in base camp. They ate pretty good food in fact normal food for where they were at. Being in the military taught them discipline for the rest of their life.

June got asked to be a medic for the Navy but declined. They both played lots of sports whenever they could or whatever was available. June is John's spouse and they met in the Air Force. Both of their favorite hobbies were bowling they both loved to bowl.

By Samuel Shoemate

Veterans June and John Beard served in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974. They served during the Vietnam War, and June participated in Operation Homecoming. Mrs. Beard grew up in New York Mr. Beard, on the other hand, grew up in Eldon, Missouri. It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices made by June and John Beard in their service to our country.

June and John Beard served in the Air Force for four years. Mrs. Beard's rank was sergeant, and Mr. Beard's rank was staff sergeant. Although they served during the Vietnam War, neither went to Vietnam.

Because she joined the military, June had to leave her six younger brothers and sisters, whom she was very close with at the time. John was married and left his wife, friends, parents, and his two-year-old daughter.

Both had been trained in using an M16, although John didn't use a weapon, and June or John did not go in the front line. Both had received awards for being in the military. John received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Citation medal twice. Both had received the Presidential Outstanding Unit Citation.

Both June and John Beard

are now happily married. They have 4 daughters, including the one John had before he married June. Both had made lifelong friends they still keep in touch with today.

By Sylls Reid

John and June are two very awesome veterans who I had the opportunity to interview. June was born in Elmira, New York. June served in the military for 4 years during the Vietnam War as an administration specialist. While she was in the military she met her husband John and they later got married.

She decided to enlist in the military. While in the military she did earn some medals, but she didn't get a Purple Heart which means that she was injured in war. She said, "If I had the chance to go back to the military to serve again I would". She also said that the stories that her uncle told her inspired her to go into the military at a young age.

While in the military there were many sacrifices that she had to make. She had to leave some of her family members behind while going into the army. The transportation she had to use was a plane because she was in the Air Force, which meant that she had to ride in a plane a lot. During the Vietnam War, she had to go out to help during the war.

Many people don't realize what she had to go through when in the military. She had to wake up extra early to go to training. While she was training she had to use an M16 to train with and it was not very easy, but women didn't fight in the war because they weren't allowed to. Afterwards in the military base, she had to clean shoes and if the shoes weren't clean enough they had a lousy punishment for the boys since there were so many people who had to clean the toilets.

Now she is retired from the military and is living with her husband John. To this day she and her husband still do things that they did in the military. She and John have friends that they met in the military that they also still talk to today. June and John always get so many thank you's from people today.



Bob Van Stedum talks about honoring veterans in hospice

By Adalyn Parkhurst

Bob Van Stedum was one of the many veterans who served in the military. He deserves all of the honor and respect we can give him. When he was little he lived on a dairy farm in Wisconsin with his parents. He lived with an older brother who was soon drafted into the military. When he turned 19 in 1971 he was drafted into the military along with his older brother. Before he could serve in the military, He had to go through training. Since He and his brother were in the military, they worked together. They both looked out for each other, and when times got rough they both had someone there for them.

This article is to respect the people who protected us and gave us freedom. If it weren't for them we would be controlled and not have free rights like we have today. Bob Van Stedum did not plan to be in the military but still protected us with all his might. His service will always be remembered along with all of the others who served alongside each other. These brave soldiers will always be remembered along with our freedom.

Bob Van Stedum served in the military for two long years before retiring. He served in the Air Force as an airplane mechanic. He was a specialist E-4 which means he had the highest rank of junior enlisted recruits.

Bob Van Stedum stated that if he could he would go back to the military and serve once again, even though he never thought of being a veteran in the first place. In 1973 at age 21 he retired from the military and finally went home.

By Aiden Randolph

Bob Van Stedum is a veteran in our community who is not honored enough. The Vietnam War may have been controversial, but the veterans should still be honored for their sacrifices.

Bob was born on a dairy farm, in central Wisconsin. He had parents and a brother. His brother served, too.

Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1971. He was encouraged to go to the Army but had to leave behind his family. Bob worked on airplanes and he was stationed in Georgia and Texas. He liked to work on motors and engines as a hobby. In 1973 he left, went home, and he met his wife.

He now volunteers in the We Honor Veterans program for hospice. The program helps veterans who are in the last stages of their lives. If Bob could serve again, he would do it honorably. He made many friends, but could never visit them. Friendship was his favorite part of the military.

By Brant Bashore

Bob Van Stedum was a military mechanic whom I was fortunate enough to meet. He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Also, he was drafted in 1971 for the Vietnam War and retired in 1973. I am writing this to honor our veterans; we should all honor them and give them the respect they deserve.

While serving he worked his way up all the way to spec 4 in two years. He was scared when he was drafted because he knew he had to leave behind family and friends, and his brother was drafted too. He was never deployed into combat, but he said he would go back if necessary.

Knowing that friends and family would worry about him was one of the hardest things for Van Stedum when he was drafted. The training was very hard. You had to run every day and train and get up super early in the morning, but he was never deployed. Luckily he didn't have to fight in the war.

During his service, on planes, engines, and all sorts of other things in his free time he liked to work on old engines and fix them up. Also if necessary he would use a M16 for his weapon. They had to sleep in a cot, some of their training included running every day and all sorts of other things.

He now works for hospice. He comforts veterans and gives them the needs they

need as they are facing the end of their lives. he also has a wife, and living his life.

By Braylon Morff

Veterans are one of the most important reasons why we have freedom today, and Bob Van Stedum was a part of it. Bob grew up on a dairy farm in Central Wisconsin where he took care of cattle. He then got drafted in 1971 and had to leave for 2 years. His purpose was to help build the mechanisms they use in the army. Bob Van Stedum had to serve, take risks, and even works in a partially military-related job to this day.

Bob was ranked spec 4 when serving but he unfortunately retired in 1973. He served for two years in total. When Vansden was in the military he was a mechanic, therefore, he fixed up all their devices, vehicles, and weapons. Even though he got drafted, he is still proud that he served. He did serve over a period of time during the Vietnam War but he did not serve in it.

When Van Stedum got drafted he took a big sacrifice and had to leave his family. At that moment, he knew that his experience would change his life. In summary, he took his time out of his life to serve America and to keep our country safe.

During Bob Van Stedum's serving duration, he learned many essential things about life. He had used a couple of weapons during this era and one example is the M-16.

When Bob got deployed he was scared for his life, he'd know what was going to come, would change his life. His experience had a lot of mixed emotions, some positive and some negative.

Bob Van Stedum now works in a hospice, (a place where veterans are very ill and don't have long to live) and helps care for them. Along with that, he takes action in the We Honor Veterans program, and associates with the group. He really cares for his fellow veterans and wants to pay the job back to them.

Also, he would serve again which means a lot considering the fact that he got drafted. That's why we should all remember Bob Van Stedum for being a fighter for our freedom.

By Bridget Graviett

This is the story of Bob Van Stedum who served during the Vietnam War from the ages of just 19 to 21, or in other words from 1971 to 1973. Bob grew up on a sizable dairy farm in Wisconsin. Alongside his older brother, who also ended up being drafted into war eleven months before himself. Bob also lived with his parents and many animals, mostly cows, however. He was content and happy on his farm at home. He ended up missing it most of all while he served.

Bob stated "If my country does need me again, I am happy to serve." His job in the war required a lot of learning and training. Bob's job was as an airplane mechanic. He would fix any damage on the airplanes that went out onto the battlefield. Although he might not have been out on the battlefield holding a firearm, he helped a lot in the Vietnam War by fixing the damaged planes.

He made many sacrifices just to serve the USA. Such as leaving everything he knew, like his home, family, and daily life. And he didn't have the choice to join. His training was extremely intense with little food, little sleep, early hours, and lots of severe exercise. It wasn't easy at any point in time.

Bob also learned lots of valuable skills in the military such as mechanics, discipline, and respect, and Bob also became stronger. He traveled to Kentucky, Georgia, and many other places around the United States of America. He thought this was the most interesting part of serving for the US.

He currently lives in Missouri. There have been many groups for veterans that Bob has joined. There he makes many friends. He is also able to share stories, as well as new ideas with other veterans. Bob has recently

also worked in a hospice facility.

In conclusion, Bob Van Stedum has done a lot for this country and is always willing to do more in the future.

By Chloe Stark

Veterans should all be honored just like Bob Van Stedum . Bob Van Stedum grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin in 1952 and was then drafted in 1972. He but traveled to Kentucky, Texas, and Georgia. His brother joined 10 months before he did and served in Vietnam.

He served as an airplane mechanic which means they work on the plane's motors that makes it run properly. Bob did training to go to Vietnam but instead, he went to Kentucky and Georgia. His rank was spec 4.

Bob Van Stedum didn't have a wife or any children when he served. He got introduced to new foods that he didn't normally eat. A tricky part about going is that he had to be away from home and his family.

Bob was drafted and didn't have a choice to stay or go. Some advice if you ever go to the military then it would be to stay with your buddy/partner. A day of military service would be eating breakfast but very fast, exercising, class training, lunch, and supper at night.

He only served for two years when they had the Vietnam War, but he is currently not serving. Now Bob has a wife and no children. Whenever he has a veteran's shirt on then he gets compliments from people.

By Drake Gilpin

Bob Van Stedum is a great veteran who served our country. He grew up on a dairy farm in 1952 in Wisconsin. Then he got drafted into the Army in 1971. When he got drafted the Vietnam War was going on. He was a courageous veteran to be serving in the military.

He was in the Army for 2 years, working on airplanes as a mechanic. He has said if he was offered to serve again, he would. Through his time in the military he traveled to Georgia, Kentucky, and Fort Hood which is in Texas.

Van Stedum was never deployed but served during the Vietnam War. There weren't many things he could do in his free time but one thing he did do was read. His rank in the military was spec 4 which was a junior enlisted rank.

His daily routine during basic training was waking up, working out, eating, and sleeping. He said the military taught him to be more disciplined and to take care of his friends more. His military service has brought him many friends and he is very grateful for them.

Van Stedum said the best part of his service was the community he met along the way. He now has a wife and they are living happily together. Unfortunately, when he came back he wasn't greeted with good words, since he served during the time of Vietnam.

But now he allied with Hospice, a veteran welcoming committee, and to this day he welcomes veterans back home. Working on funerals and welcomes, he is very happy to be in Hospice, Bob Van Stedum is a wonderful veteran.

By Elyssa Mitchell

This article is about Bob Van Stedum, who is a retired veteran who served our country in the years 1971-1973. VanSuden grew up on a dairy farm in Central Wisconsin. His older brother is also a veteran. Back in 1971, Van Stedum was drafted into the military, meaning he did not have a choice. VanSudem is very proud of his work and loves sharing his stories and listening to others.

Bob's service was not as small as some people might think. Bob was a Spec Four in the military. He worked as a mechanic on engines. He only served for two years from 1971 to 1973, however he took his time with pride and worked hard. During his service, he gave it his all and



A trip on the Central Missouri Honor Flight-Bob Van Stedum, who recently spoke to Eldon seventh graders took a trip to Washington D.C. to see the war memorials with his brother Ernest on the Central Missouri Honor Flight. Van Stedum told students about his brother going to Vietnam.

loved it.

He had to do a lot when he found out he was going to be drafted into the military. He had to leave his family behind and serve. He was drafted 10 months after his brother. It was a lot since his brother just finished his service and Bob wouldn't know anybody.

To him, his experience was helpful in life. While he was there he learned that you can't be selfish, you have to help your friends and push hard with them, not on your own. Each day during training he would run for 20 minutes or more. Eventually, he got used to it and it got easier as it went on him. He was a mechanic, and in his spare time, he would work on small engines to take up some time. The weapon he used during his experience was a M16.

In his life now he still works, but loves his life. He works in a Hospice listening to old veterans' stories from their experiences, he gives them certificates and thanks them for their services. Mainly the times he gets thanked for his service is when he wears his hat, but sometimes he gets thanked when he wears a shirt, but he loves it.

He says that if the government needed someone for the military, he would go back and help. Bob Van Stedum is not very recognized, but we thank him very much for his work, even if we don't say it we truly appreciate him for everything.

By Emily Porter

This article is about one of the veterans that helped save America and keep it free. His name was Bob Van Stedum and he grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin with his family. He had a brother that was drafted ten months before him.

Bob Van Stedum was drafted during the Vietnam war. Although he never fought in it, he worked on fixing the war planes as he served in the army. After all of this you may ask yourself who Bob Van Stedum well the answer is simple he was a hero.

It all started on a little dairy farm in Wisconsin that is where Bob got drafted for war, his brother was drafted ten months before when he was drafted he was put in the army he never fought but his job was very important, he fixed the planes for the fights his favorite hobby during his service was watching people fix engines.

During his service he would do his normal thing; get up, fix his bed and get ready to work. The army taught him a lot of things including some life lessons.

But during the winter Bob didn't have a lot to do. The

planes never were really flown in winter, he was in the army for two years before he retired from it when he came home he was happy to return to his family and wife.

His life since retiring from the army has been good. He has a wife and today he is currently working with hospice. He helps retired military people as they face their later stages of their lives.

Bob Van Stedum was a hero; he saved people with his work on planes. And He is one of the reasons America is still free today.

By Gracie Wallis

This article is about one of the veterans that helped save America and keep it free. His name was Bob Van Stedum and He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin with his family. He had a brother that was drafted ten months before him. Bob Van Stedum was drafted during the Vietnam war. Although he never fought in it, he worked on fixing the war planes as he served in the army. After all of this you may ask yourself who Bob Van Stedum well the answer is simple he was a hero.

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His life since retiring from the army has been good. He has a wife and today he is currently working with hospice. He helps retired military people as they face their later stages of their lives.

Bob Van Stedum was a hero; he saved people with his work on planes. And He is one of the reasons America is still free today.

By Gunner Apperson

Bob Van Stedum grew up in central Wisconsin on a dairy farm. He got drafted in 1971, the Vietnam War. He was very shocked when he got drafted; it was like everything just stopped. Drafted is way different from joining, drafted is where you don't have a choice to join and you don't get the choice to decide

if you or not. The branch that he was drafted into was the army.

He sacrificed a lot when he got drafted. He left his wife and all of his family when he got drafted. His brother also got drafted about two months before him. The other thing is that he didn't even know that he was going to be drafted. They just sent a note to their address and said we will draft you.

He fought in the military for 2 years, from 1971 to 1973. His rank in the military was Spec Four. He was stationed in Texas, and he also served in Georgia. He worked on engines in the military, which was also his hobby.

He said that if he could go back into the military he definitely would. The hardest part of service for him was the PT training. On average, they would run for 30 minutes. At that time in the war, they were using the m16.

He now has a wife. He now works at a hospice which is end of life care. He honors veterans who are in hospice and gives them a pendant.

By Hudson Grey

This article is about Bob Van Stedum who was a veteran. I wrote about this because people who risked their lives for our country need to be recognized. Bob grew up on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin. He served during the Vietnam War in Texas and Georgia but was never deployed to Vietnam. Bob was in the army and his rank was a spec 4.

He was a mechanic during his time in the military. Bob retired in 1973. He says he would go back and serve again if he could.

Bob had to leave behind his siblings and his parents. He had a brother who was drafted 10 months before he did. Bob said he was initially scared to go into the military.

He used an M16 which is a rapid-fire rifle that adapted from the AR-15. Bob said Base camp was hard, but it was normal for a base camp. He also said he had to sleep in a cot.

Now Bob works for hospice. He said hospice was a good program to have. Bob asks the people at the end of their life if they were veterans and if they were he would thank them and give them an American Flag badge. Bob would also give them a certificate that said their name and what part of the military he served in that would thank them for their service.

Some people don't recognize Bob as a veteran unless he wears his veteran hat and when he wears it he says he gets a lot of thank yous.

Bob Van Stedum talks about honoring veterans in hospice continued

By Hunter Weekley

When Bob Van Stedum was growing up, he had a few siblings and was born in 1952. He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. His brother also joined the military 11 months before him. Then after those 11 months before he was drafted.

So Bob was drafted into the army in 1971 when he was 19 years old. Also, his brother was in the Vietnam War. He was an airplane mechanic so he does have some experience in airplanes. His rank when he left was Spec 4, he would also go back and serve if he had to.

The sacrifice he made was like leaving his family. His family meant a lot to him and he missed them quite a bit in the army. But when he was only 19 he didn't have any children or a wife. But he does have a wife now.

Also on Veterans Day, he gets a lot of thank yous, and one day someone said are you a veteran he said yeah then they shook and someone gave him a gift card, he never saw him again. I wrote this to tell the story that Bob had and just to respect him and thank him for his service.

By Jadyn Henderson

I was very thankful to have Bob Van Stedum come talk to us about his service, experience, and how it still affects him now. Bob grew up in central Wisconsin on a dairy farm. Bob got drafted and left his family. After all that, Bob said he would still go back and serve again if his country needed him.

Bob got drafted. He was gonna go to college but than unexpectedly got chosen to go to the military. Bob had a older brother who went to the military also. Bob did not fight in vietnam but, his older brother did. He made a couple of friends but one of his closest friends was from Ohio. He said basic training was pretty hard with the hardest being a 20-minute hike. Bob was a hospice, but on his free time, he fixed up tiny engines. Bob loved his job because he go to help people.

Bob said veterans have to have a different mindset when serving because they were fighting for peace and your loved ones. Bob retired in 1973. His lifelong lesson was to always respect everyone. Right now, Bob has a wife. He said that if he could go back he would because he loved helping people and loved his job.

By Jesse Jones

Bob was a veteran who served in the army in 1973. Bob grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin during his childhood. When he joined he was put in the army, but he helped out by repairing engines and fixing the cars. We honor the veterans because they sacrificed their lives to keep our freedom.

Bob didn't enlist to join the army, but he was drafted and many others were too. He was drafted in 1973, so he could help the cause to keep us safe. When he was drafted Texas and Georgia were two of the places he served in. His rank was Spec 4. He left the army in 1975 meaning he served for two years.

Bob sacrificed the ability to see his family for two years to keep them safe. He liked to work on engines and mechanics. The most important of all is he sacrificed his life for us to keep our freedom.

Engines were one of the things he had experience with, so he could help fix or repair the vehicles. Him and his fellow army men/women had experience with the M16 and the 1911.

After Bob got back from the army, he came back to his family and married his wife.

He could be still working on one big engine from a month to a week ago. If the Army ever needed him then he would go back to the Army and help them out. Currently he works at the hospice,

which honors veterans and others with whatever helps. Hospice

By Jett Wood

Bob Van Stedum was a veteran who served our country. Bob grew up in Central Wisconsin on a dairy farm. He grew up with an older brother. When he went to the military he was in the army branch. He got drafted and did not choose to go there. He got drafted in 1971 and served for 2 years.

When he retired he was ranked spec 4. He was a mechanic while in the army. He served in Texas and Georgia.

He had to decide to leave his hometown from where he grew up. He had to leave his family and friends. When he left he was terrified. He also had to leave his wife

His experience was just about helping others. When he was in the army he used the m16 for a gun. While he was in the military, he liked working on small engines. After he got back from the military he was happy to be back with family and friends again. He was not married during his service.

Not very often does he get people to say thank you for serving our country. If he ever does get a thank you, it is when he is wearing a hat or shirt. One of his favorite things is meeting new people. One time he got a gift card to Walmart, although he wasn't wearing anything. No matter what we should always thank our veterans for what they have done.

By Jude Holleman

The veteran I'm gonna talk about is Bob Van Stedum who served in the military for 2 years. He was drafted into the military in 1971. He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. People like Bob Van Stedum should be recognized.

He was a hard-working person. He served for 2 years 1971 to 1973. He was drafted and received a spec 4 rank. Although Bob never went into battle and stayed at camp and fixed planes, he was still ready for action and did his part to help our country. His service has helped us a lot.

He made many sacrifices to go into the military. He has a wife but when he was drafted he had family. Training was hard, but the hardest was marching long distances. When he was in the military he liked to fix and repair planes.

The weapon he used was a M16. The military taught him to be disciplined. Since he wasn't a picky eater he didn't mind the food they served. He also made some lifelong friends

He still is working hard now after already doing stuff for us. Now, he works at a Hospice, that is helping people in their last stages of life. He said if he could go back to the military he happily would. He doesn't receive thank you often. I would like to remind everyone to thank you when you see a veteran.

By Kaylee Wood

Bob Van Stedum is a veteran who should be honored for his service. Although Bob Van Stedum lives in the lake area now, he grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. He was drafted in 1971 at the age of 19. Similarly, he had a brother who was drafted and he went to the army 11 months before him where he served in Vietnam.

Van Stedum was an airplane mechanic in the army. He served for 2 years, so he retired in 1973.

Bob served during the Vietnam War; however, he did not serve in that war. He didn't have a wife while he served. During his time a typical day in training included probation, eating fast, and then exercising. Training for the military was

6-8 months long.

Van Stedum's rank was Spec-4 in the army. He would serve again if he had the chance. The places he served were Kentucky and Texas.

Van Stedum partners with hospice. That means he meets with other veterans who are given 6 months to live and does ceremonies with the We Honor Veterans program. Van Stedum has a wife now. He also does pinning ceremonies for veterans and a retreat ceremony for veterans.

By Kimber Connell

Bob Van Stedum is the military veteran that my class interviewed. VanSuden Grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. His brother was also drafted in Vietnam, although it was 10 months before him. VanSuden was 19 when he was drafted. He was an airplane mechanic in the army (the army was usually the only one that you could be drawn into). Bob Van Stedum needs to be honored for what he did to help our country, even if he never actually was deployed into war.

Van Stedum is retired now, he served 2 years and was a spec 4. The military helped him learn things like discipline and responsibility. Van Stedum said that if his country ever needs him he would be willing to return and serve again.

A normal day in basic training was: exercise, breakfast, exercise, class training, supper, and then they did whatever they wanted. He traveled to Kentucky, Texas, and Georgia. His favorite thing about his experience was making new friends, traveling, and explosions. His least favorite part about the military was coming home, going through airports was the worst thing that he saw, No one had any respect, they were called names, and spit on. Some of the valuable life lessons he learned were: You're bigger than yourself and take care of your buddy.

He gets said thank you when he wears a hat or his veteran shirt or on Veterans Day. He has a wife and they are happy together. Van Stedum enjoys doing pinning ceremonies and has been doing them for 12 years through the We Honor Veterans program that is partnered with hospice. He also did funerals for soldiers, and the most challenging part was bringing and folding the flag.

By Landon Green

Have you ever wanted to know what it is like to be in the military? If you have today is your lucky day. You will learn about Bob's perspective of the military, so we get to recognize him as a veteran and we get to hear their story and experience. These paragraphs are about his growing up, service, sacrifice, experience, and life now.

Growing up Bob was living on a dairy farm in Wisconsin.

He also grew up with an elder brother who got deployed in Vietnam.

Bob was drafted when he was nineteen years of age.

While he was in the army Bob's job when he was drafted was as a plane mechanic.

When he was sent home his rank was spec four.

When asked if he could go back he said, "If I was needed I would go back."

Bob Van Stedum served for two years.

When Bob was serving he was never deployed, but was drafted during Vietnam.

Bob is now happily married but at the time of deployment, he was not.

The most arduous conditioning was marching to base camp.

He left behind his mom and dad. He used the m-16.

Since he was not deployed he slept in the bunks

He was drafted during the Vietnam but was drafted later

and did not get deployed.

Bob works with hospice now and gets to talk to veterans with the Honoring Veterans program

Bob is married but does not have any kids.

In Bob's opinion, the best part of the military was the friends.

By Lane Eden

Bob Van Stedum was a veteran of our country, meaning he served in the US military to protect us so his story should be heard. He grew up on a dairy farm in Central, Wisconsin. He got drafted in 1971 during the Vietnam War. His brother was also in the military during the Vietnam War.

He didn't get a choice to join the military, because he got drafted. He got a job as a mechanic, and he served for 2 years until he retired in 1973. The hardest exercise he ever had was marching from place to place. He worked on small engines in his free time because it brought him joy, especially with lawnmowers. At the end of his career, his highest rank was a spec 4.

When he got drafted he sadly had to leave his town, mom, dad, and brother. Even after having no choice to join he still followed through with it. He would still make the sacrifice to do it again if he could or had to. Bob is very proud of what he did and doesn't regret it.

Bob said he had very hard exercises that he had to endure, but he still had fun times. During his basic training, he got to use guns like an m16. Like I said he was a mechanic while he was serving, which means if one of their cars broke down he had to fix it. He was only serving for 2 years, which wasn't a long time, but he still greatly impacted our country.

Nowadays in 2023, he's living his life the way he wants to. He volunteers at a hospice in Missouri to help injured or sick people. He doesn't have any children but is married. Bob Vansuden was a very courageous person to go out and protect our country. Some people need to sit down and really think about what people like Bob have done to protect us.

By Levi Williams

Bob Van Stedum grew up in Wisconsin on a farm. When he turned 19 he got drafted into the Vietnam War then, he went to boot camp for 8 weeks next he had to go to A.I.C. for 6 weeks to become a plane mechanic. "a". After he retired he went into a veteran program to help veterans and do funerals for them. He has done that since he retired from the military. Now he lives in Missouri and does the things I mentioned in the veterans program.

While he was in the military the farthest he was, was in Michigan. He was active for 2 years and inactive for another 2 years. Also, there were no regrets except wanting to be home. But being in the military gave him more discipline from being in the military. Also his brother was in the military police.

Some of his favorite things to do were going to bible camp to get away from his farm; he also liked doing outdoor activities. Now he is glad to be out of the army but would enlist if there was a big war again. He doesn't get told "thank you for your service" unless he has his veteran shirt or hat on. Also, now he has new friends from the military.

By Madison Atwell

Bob Van Stedum grew up in central Wisconsin on a dairy farm with his family. In 1971, his older brother and he were drafted into the military during the Vietnam War. His brother eventually got deployed. Bob, an army man, was stationed in Georgia and then Texas.

Mr. Van Stedum served two years in the army as a mechanic for planes that were damaged while flying. He started as a private E1. Then,

after his training, he became an E2. His third ranking was a private first class. Eventually, he became a Spec 4 and that's what he retired as.

When Van Stedum got drafted, his biggest sacrifice was leaving his family behind. He missed his family terribly, and probably worse because he wasn't planning on leaving. He was very excited to come back after his two years serving in the army.

During his time in the military, he repaired a lot of machines. Bob said it was sometimes boring when the planes flew because they didn't always break. When he had nothing to do, he would make coffee for his coworkers and drink it with them for the hours he worked until a damaged vehicle came for them to fix.

The basic camp was hard for him. They'd run for at least twenty minutes every day. He said his least favorite exercise was the night flier. While in training he told us that they used an M16, sort of like an AR-15.

After retiring, Van Stedum did get ahold of one friend from his service and went out to Ohio to see him and his family. For a job after the military, Bob works in hospice for the "We Honor Veterans" program, which is taking care of and honoring veterans during the last few months of their lives. He takes care of people who are veterans and learns their stories to tell to people like us. We then asked a question that many veterans have different answers to. We asked him if he would serve again. Bob's response was, "Absolutely.". It's very inspirational to hear such a reply. Even though he didn't have the choice to serve he would do it all over again for our freedom. When he is not working, Bob likes to work on small engines and repairing old, throw-away lawnmowers. Now that Bob is retired, he gets lots of thank yous from people when he is wearing a hat or a T-shirt resembling the military. He said he's always very appreciative when people say thank you, and one time he got a gift card from a little kid in Walmart. He'd never seen anything like it and was grateful.

We should appreciate Bob Van Stedum for all he's done. He didn't want to go to the military, but he still did it and everyone should be thankful for that. Furthermore, he went to work in a hospice for veterans. Everyone experiences death differently and it's nice that Bob can be someone fellow veterans can talk to during the last months of their life. If you ever see Bob, make sure to thank him for all he has done.

By Max Rodriguez

Bob Van Stedum is a veteran and he grew up in Wisconsin on a farm. He also entered the war 11 months before his brother left his family. And he joined the army because he wanted to serve his country. And he was drafted in the military in 1973

Bob Van Stedum is now a retired veteran, and his rank was spec 4. He said if he could go back he would. He was a plane mechanic and fixed cars. But he was never deployed. He retired in 1976. Also Bob liked the army. And it affected him, it affected him by learning to be disciplined.

When Bob left his family was only there but when he came back he got a spouse. He was fighting against nobody but he served in texas. His brother was in the military when he joined so I bet it was cool. And a regular day in training he said was hard. And for his hobbies he liked to do outdoor activities cause he grew up on a farm.

His experience in base camp was rough, he said, because of the hard training. Bob used a weapon called the m-16 but not very much because, he was a plane mechanic and he loved to

work on cars and planes... He learned a lot of stuff because in the military you had to have a good mentality to get through the training. And now I bet it made him have a better mindset to push through things in life.

Now he goes around and talks with kids and talks to us about his life in the army, how it was fun and harsh sometimes. He also is partnered up with hospice. Hospice is a special kind of care that focuses on the quality of life for people who are experiencing an advanced, life-limiting illness and their caregivers. So that sums of what it would be like in the army as a plane mechanic.

By Mckinley Leslie

Bob Van Stedum was drafted into the military and worked as a mechanic.

Bob was born in Wisconsin on a dairy farm with his older brother. His older brother was drafted, and then Bob was drafted 10 months later than his brother in 1971. Bob worked on planes when they broke or had a malfunction. Bob was born in Wisconsin. He was drafted for the military and had a brother who got drafted ten months later. Bob was Stationed in Texas, Georgia, and Vietnam, but didn't go to Vietnam. We want to honor Mr. Van Stedum for his hard work in the military.

Bob was stationed in Texas and Georgia during the years he served in the military. When Bob left the army he was on rank four since he started on zero. Bob was drafted for the war in 1971 when he was 19 years old.

Bob thought running for twenty to thirty minutes was kind of hard. He was never deployed when serving in the military. Some hobbies while not working were fixing things for fun.

Bob had a weapon of m-16 while in the military, but didn't really use it much. The camp training was sometimes hard and others delicate. Bob had a different mindset before he went into the military.

After his service he got a gift card from a kid in Walmart because the kid thanked him for his service, he was happy. Bob would love to serve our country again. Bob was sad to leave his family behind because he didn't know he was going to be drafted. Bob does not think the kids in his generation will understand what it was like to serve in the military.

By Oaklee Reece

I was fortunate enough to meet Bob Van Stedum. He used to serve in the army. He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin in 1952. He was drafted at the age of 19, in 1971. His brother was drafted 11 months before he was.

At this point, you may be wondering why I chose to write an article about a veteran. Well, the reason why is because all veterans, including Bob, should be honored.

Bob served as an airplane mechanic in the military for 2 years. He was a specialist 4. He said that if he could, he would go back and serve.

Some of you may be wondering, what do veterans do for training? Well, on a typical day of training, you would wake up, do exercises, eat, and do more exercises. For basic training, you would train for eight weeks. For AIT, you would prepare for six weeks. The most enormous sacrifice for anyone who joins the military is leaving family and friends behind.

The army slept on beds in barracks. They had light weapons. When you first come, it can be difficult because the army has a different mindset.

Now, Bob Van Stedum has a spouse. He is thanked for his service on Veterans Day and every time he is wearing his army hat.



Bob Van Stedum talks about honoring veterans in hospice continued

By Sarah Beeley

Bob Van Stedum was a boy who grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and had to do work most of his life. As he got older at the age of 19 he found out he was drafted into the military. His brother also got drafted 11 months before him.

He had to leave his family behind, and he missed them. The branch that he was in was the army and spec 4.

The places that he went to, to serve in are Kentucky and Georgia. He was in training when the Vietnam War happened and he was in Texas, he didn't have enough training to be in the war. The total amount of time that he served was 2 years. The training that he had to go through was tough, and could be at least 8 to 16 weeks at most.

The food that he had to eat would give him protein and just fill him up enough and all the others too. It was nothing fancy. The best thing that happened to him while serving was getting to meet

new people who would be his friends. He worked on airplanes and was a good airplane mechanic. He now works for hospice and provides care to people who had 6 months or less to live and he helped them.

The only time that he would get told "thank you for serving" is when he is wearing something that can say he is a veteran. He has a spouse now and is pretty happy.

The hardest thing he did was folding the flag for any veteran at funerals. He said, "If I Could serve again I would do it again." His favorite memory growing up is going to church camp for the summer and not having to do any farm work. After he got out of the army he got into a program with other veterans.

He got more disciplined from the military. On a normal day in training, he would exercise, eat, and even do more exercises, knowing/learning the expectations of the military.

The life lesson he learned is

the commodity, knowing that you're bigger than yourself. You do what you're supposed to do and you're always going to be there for you buddy.

I wrote this for an important veteran named Bob Van Stedum who was willing to share his story and experience about being in the military and helping us understand how hard it could be for others worldwide.

By Tristan Stark
Bob Van Stedum is a veteran of our country which means he helped keep our freedom alive, and his story needs to be heard. Bob grew up on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin where he would work as a kid. Bob didn't have a choice to go to the military he was drafted. Bob was in the military from 1971 to 1973.

Bob's family didn't know what to think but they were not angry or happy. The time Bob was drafted was for the Vietnam War. Bob served in Texas and Georgia when he was in the military. When Bob retired, his rank was a

spec 4. He never actually got to fight in the war but he was still serving during the time.

Getting drafted could change a person's life, as it did to Bob. When he was drafted he had to leave his whole world behind and that is a hard thing to do.

What was even harder was leaving his whole family behind and he couldn't do anything about it. Bob had to make a whole new schedule for his everyday life just to meet the military's expectations. Bob didn't have a problem with it, though he said it was hard to do.

Bob had to do training which according to him was not that bad. Bobs had a specific gun which was an M16. Bob liked working on things in the military like planes and cars, he would also like training. Bob said that training wasn't as bad as other people explain it. He said one thing they had to do was 20 minutes of running and he said it was alright.

Bob, after retiring, still wanted to be in the military in

a way. Bob now helps with hospice where you support veterans on their deathbeds. Bob was happy to come home to his wife and his family after being gone for so long. Bob said he would do it again as a choice to go back to the military. Bob is a veteran who should be heard for these reasons and we need to listen.

By Tyler Childers

Bob Van Stedum lived in central Wisconsin on a dairy farm. Bob was a plane mechanic, and retired in 1973. Bob was drafted instead of choosing to join the army.

While Bob was serving, he went to Texas and Georgia. Bob worked on motors for military jets and airplanes. Bob retired from the military and was relieved to go back to his family in 1973. Bob said, "It was a relief to go back home, and it felt great to be back home."

When Bob was drafted he sacrificed his time with his mom, his dad, and kind of his brother, even though his brother was drafted as well.

Since he didn't have a choice to stay home or not, he had to go.

While serving he would run for 30 minutes every day. He also did other exercises that were very difficult but were also mentally challenging.

Bob was a spec 4 in the engineers' group. He worked on small motors, (which was lucky for him since that was one of his hobbies) and he loved it. Bob even said,

"If I could I would go back, not because of the friends that you would make, but because you'd get the honor to serve for your unit." If Bob were to have gone to the Vietnam War, we would have used an M16 because that is what he used in basic training.

Today, Bob has a beautiful wife that he loves. He has partnered with Hospiceto help in the last stage of their life. Like Bob said, "I would serve again if I could." So, today Bob has a great life and loves his family. He also had made a couple of lifelong friends.

Cummings talks to students about Air Force service

By Chayce Maples

Mike is one of the many veterans we have here in Eldon.

Mike grew up in Illinois and he went to college at Sacramento State and played basketball. When he was just 20 he joined the Air Force, he served in the Gulf War.

His main base was located in northern California where he did seven

weeks of basic training, along with 10 and a half of specialized training, for a plane called The U-2S Dragon Lady.

The U-2S Dragon Lady is an agile and reliable high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft that flies 24/7/ 365 days out of the year, to ensure global security with exceptional performance.

When Mike retired he left the Air Force a staff sergeant and with the Air Force achievement he was deployed to Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Austria while in service.

While in the military Mike ate a mixed diet of tuna rice and MREs. When Mike and his team had to travel they would go in these big red trucks, but when at base camp he would use his truck. He usually would golf or play a different sport in his free time. One of his favorite experiences in the military was when he was in charge of trying out the chase cars.

Today Mike lives in Eldon with his wife and kids. He still plays golf in his free time. Mike says he never regretted joining the military but would never do it again. The military for Mike was a massive symbol of brotherhood for him. Thank you for your service, Mike.

By Chelsie Frazier

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, I interviewed Mike Cummings about his service in the military. Mike grew up in Illinois and was 20 when he joined the Air Force. He stated one of the reasons why he joined was because he would be working on the only you/2 spy plane at the time. He was also very interested in aircraft and how they worked. He was inspired to join the military because of his grandfather and uncles who served also.

Mike's rank in the Air Force was E5 or Staff Sergeant. He also enlisted and served in the Gulf War. Mike had many fears about joining the military, he shared that he was afraid of what was to come. Mike said he never knew what he was going to do or where he was going next. Overall, he said he never

regretted it.

During the eight years in the military, he was deployed five times and said he would go back and do it again if he could. Mike also told a story about his training, he stated: "During training one of my drill sergeants ordered me to pick up cigarette butts to test my character and see if I would do it with a smile on my face, when I finished I went up to my Sergeant and told him I did it and thanked him with a smile on my face." Mike said the biggest life lesson he learned while serving was discipline. He retired in 2000 and soon after he became a golf pro at the Eldon golf course. Mike now has a wife and 2 kids, he is still a golf pro and works at the Eldon golf course.

By Nevaeh McClanahan

Michael Cummings is one of our veterans in the U.S., and he grew up in Illinois. When Michael was twenty he joined the military. While in the Air Force, Michael served in the Gulf War. Michael picked to be in the Air Force, and some people didn't get to choose but he did. He was inspired by his uncle and joined the military.

Michael was a staff sergeant which means he encouraged duty among different troops. He would go back and join the military if he could but he is currently retired. Michael's job in the military was to work on the aircraft.

Michael was in the military for eight years and sacrificed 2920 days of his life. He offered his family and his friends. Michael didn't know what was going to happen to him if he got on the bus to go to the military.

While Michael was serving in the military he was in the golf war. The people in the military with Michael had to sleep on the ground or a cot. If Michael had spare time he would be playing and or practicing golf.

Michael now is a pro golf player, he is also married and has two kids. Michael now lives in Eldon. He still communicates with his friends who were in the Air Force and they communicate through Facebook.

By Norah Wallace

This is the story of Michael Cummings, yet he also goes by Mike. Some of his family was in the military too. Mike grew up in Illinois until he started the military. Mike liked aircraft when he was young, then he went to the military.

Whenever Mike joined the

military, he had to move away from his home. Mike had to leave his family and house. Leaving his family must have been a hard thing for Mike.

In the Air Force, he got to go up to the sky for hours, take pictures of the sky, and see the world. Most Air Force workers would be in the sky for eight to ten hours. Air Force workers had to eat foods like noodles like spaghetti and rice, Mike's favorite food to eat was spaghetti.

Before he worked as an air force he was a staff servant. Staff sergeants did anything the staff said to, one thing they did was pick up cigarette buds. After being a staff servant, Mike worked in the Air Force. The Air Force flew up into space, while in space they took pictures and saw everything going on almost everywhere.

Mike now has a wife and two kids. He now lives in Eldon. He loves to play golf. Mike only gets told "thanks for serving" on Veterans Day, very little.

By Owen Vernon

Michael Cummings is one of our very many veterans in the nation. He grew up in the state of Illinois. Then he fought in the Gulf War. He was inspired by his grandpa and his dad, and then Mike retired in 2000.

Mr. Mike was awarded many awards in the military but the most important achievement was air force achievement. He was an E5 staff sergeant in the Air Force. If Mr. Mike was asked to join the military he said he would go back to serve again. After he retired, he became a golf pro.

Mr. Mike made a sacrifice; he left his family and his loved ones when he joined the Air Force. In his service, he worked on the You/two spy planes and the You/two spy planes That Flew over 70,000. Mr. Mike gave up eight years of his life to protect our country.

Mr. Mike's experience was amazing. He was stationed at the only place in the U.S. where the you/two planes were. He was willing to do anything his first week of duty he had to pick up cigarette buds off the ground. He slept on the ground, in cots, and beds when he was in the military.

Mr. Mike now is a golf pro and has two kids and a wife. He has friends from the Air Force who communicate with him on Facebook. Now Mr. Mike lives like an average person and is golfing every day that he can.

Mr. Cummings is



Remembering Air Force service-Mike Cummings was interviewed by Eldon seventh graders in Nathaniel Caudel's class about his service in the military. Cummings said he would be willing to go back in the military if they needed him.

appreciated for serving in the military. Appreciate Mr. Cummings and all the other veterans out there.

By Wyatt Brockmeier

One of the many veterans in Eldon who deserve more recognition is Mr. Michael Cummings. Mr. Michael Cummings was born in Illinois and now lives in Eldon, Missouri. He served in the Gulf War (1990-1991). Mr. Michael Cummings worked in the Air Force as a ready crew on the U-2 spy plane. One of the main reasons he joined the Air Force was because he was fond of aircraft.

He joined right at the end of the Gulf War. During his time in the Gulf War, he fought against Iraq. He served for eight years; four in service and four years

inactive.

He received the Air Force achievement for his second deployment. He was deployed a total of three times. His home base was in California and he was deployed to Saudi Arabia. His rank was E-5 or Staff Sergeant

One of his most challenging training exercises for him was having to pick cigarette buds off the runway. He made friends while in the Air Force, and he still talks to some of them as of today. His routine was almost all the same in the Air Force. He now has a wife and two children. When he heard about his deployment, he was very excited, but he was also scared of the unknown problems.

When he had free time in the Air Force, he played golf, basketball, and other outdoor activities. The two most

common weapons he used were the M16 and 9-millimeter pistol. When he slept he mostly slept on cots and ground beds.

He got to drive in chase cars that were used to collect pogos. They also drive on the strip with the plane to help the plane by speaking to the pilot when they are going to land. He learned many life lessons that very much affected him.

His favorite part about the Air Force and serving was the structure and the sister and brotherhood. He said he would go back and serve again.

He also said he never regretted joining. He is also a golf pro here in Eldon. Mr Michael Cummings is only thanked around once a year and that is why he deserves more recognition.






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Facts about Veterans Day

Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. Initially commemorated as Armistice Day but renamed Veterans Day in the United States in 1954, the holiday is a federal holiday throughout the country.

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919. Despite that lengthy history, the general public may still have questions about Veterans Day.

When is Veterans Day observed?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of which day of the week that happens to be. In 2023, Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. Because Veterans Day falls on a Saturday in 2023, the federal observation date is Friday, November 10.

Why is November 11 so significant?

November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I.

What distinguishes Veterans Day from



Memorial Day?

The VA notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served honorably in the military during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

What is the significance of red poppies?

Red poppies are ubiquitous on Memorial Day, but they're also visible on Veterans Day. Though it's not taboo to wear red poppies on Veterans Day, it's a tradition that aligns more with Memorial Day. That's because the poppies are typically worn to honor fallen military personnel. A 1915 poem written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel

named John McCrae referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders.

Do other countries honor their military veterans?

Many countries across the globe honor their military veterans, and many do so on November 11 as well. For example, Canadians and Australians observe Remembrance Day in honor of their nation's respective veterans on November 11. Great Britain observes Remembrance Day on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to honor and commemorate the brave men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. military during wartime and peacetime.





Thank You, Veterans!

We salute your service, and wish you a happy Veterans Day.



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Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

October 6, 2023

Greetings from the Governor's Office!

As the Governor of a state that is home to more than 425,000 Veterans, I write this letter to express to you how important it is to honor and understand the sacrifices our state and nation's Veterans have made on our behalf.

As a veteran myself, it is always a privilege to speak about our nation's Veterans and their dutiful service to the United States. Our nation's men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to keep us safe, preserve our freedoms, and promote democracy around the world.

American soldiers not only put their lives on the line, but they may spend months on end separated from their friends and families fighting for us. They answer the call to service not in the absence of fear but despite it – the truest form of bravery.

Today and every day, we honor Veterans not only for the sacrifices they make but for the sacrifices of their families too. Veterans demonstrate honor, courage, and a commitment to a greater good, and that must never be forgotten. It is important to learn about Veterans so that their service to our nation may never be taken for granted.

We are forever indebted to our Veterans, many of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice. The continued sacrifices of our Veterans and military members guarantees that generations of Americans will have the freedom to pursue their own American dream, and that is something we should all be grateful for.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Parson
Governor

Supporting veterans is a worthy endeavor at any time of year, though such efforts tend to be more prominent in November. Veterans Day is celebrated annually on November 11 in honor of the millions of individuals across the United States who are military veterans. The day coincides with holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other countries and also honor military veterans.

There's no denying that veterans need the support of the people whose freedoms they protect. According to a 2021 study from researchers at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the percentage of veterans with disabilities is significantly higher among post-9/11 veterans (40 percent) than it was with veterans from previous eras (25 percent for Gulf War I veterans and 13 percent for veterans of previous wars). Veterans can benefit from support legislated by elected officials in Washington, D.C., but there's also many things ordinary citizens can do to show how much they appreciate the sacrifices veterans and their families have made and will make in the years to come.

- Visit wounded veterans.

The United States Census Bureau reports that more than one-third of the nearly 3.8 million men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since September 2001 have a service-connected disability. Many of these individuals are fighting to overcome physical injuries sustained while on active duty. Individuals who want to show their support for veterans can contact their local VA facility to arrange a visit to wounded veterans. Such visits can lift veterans' spirits and reassure them that their sacrifices are both acknowledged and appreciated.

- Support legislation that supports veterans. Though it might seem like a no-brainer, legislation to support veterans often faces an uphill battle to get passed. By supporting legislation that ensures veterans get the support they need, individuals can send a message to veterans that they haven't been forgotten and that the very democratic principles they fought to protect are alive and well. Citizens can write letters to their elected officials, urging them to support veteran-friendly legislation, and raise awareness of bills and laws through social media.
- Help raise awareness about homeless veterans.

Data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that approximately 40,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. But that figure doesn't tell the whole story, as the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans notes that, over the course of a year, roughly twice that many veterans experience homelessness.

The NCHV believes that programs to assist homeless veterans should focus on helping them reach a point where they can obtain and sustain gainful employment. In addition, the NCHV feels that the most effective programs are community-based, nonprofit, "veterans helping veterans" groups. Individuals can offer their support to such groups through financial donations or other means so they can continue to ensure no veteran sleeps on the street.

Veterans Day is a time to show veterans that their service and sacrifices are not taken for granted. Visiting wounded veterans and supporting efforts to ensure veterans get what they need to live full, healthy and happy lives is a great way to send the message that veterans are appreciated.



Thank You, Veterans!
We salute your service, and wish you a happy Veterans Day.

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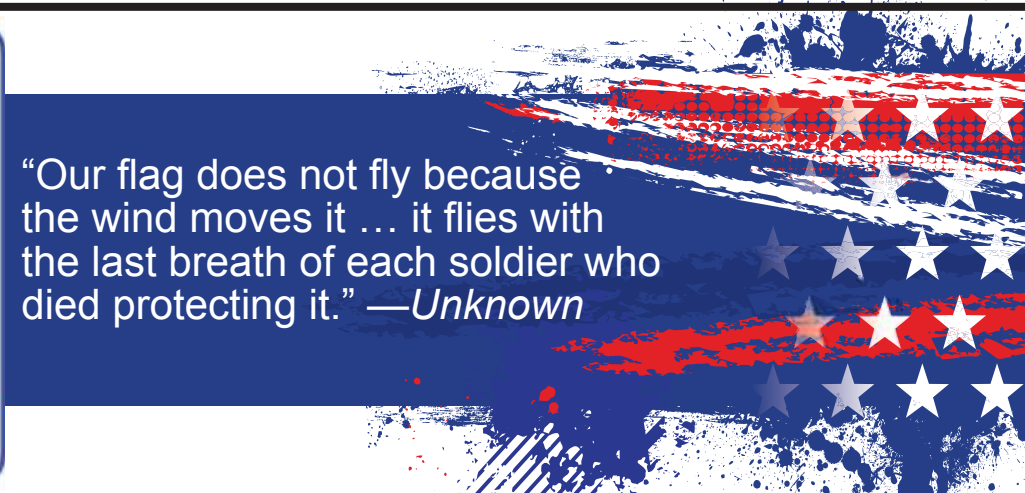
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Iberia R-V fifth and sixth grade students are interviewed about Veterans Day



Iberia sixth graders in Mrs. Rowden's class-Iberia sixth graders in Mrs. Rowden's class were interviewed for the Veterans Project. They are pictured, from left, Mrs. Rowden, Makayla Cross, Reese Conner, Skyler Beabout, Hunter Brand and Justin Teegarden; second row: Westley Kinder, Bennett Whittle, Judah Underwood, Allyson Steward, Brenna Davis, Trace Jenkins, Damon Ball and Harlee Luttrell.



Iberia fifth graders in Mrs. Johnson's class-Iberia fifth graders in Mrs. Johnson's class are pictured in no particular order: Augie Deardeuff, Ryder Weller, Bryleigh Pemberton, Tanner Robbins, Dax Vail, Nolan Pemberton, Hailey Smith, Asher Lawson, Corbin Wall, Callie Whittle, Aijah Williams and Emmerson Schmidt.



Iberia fifth graders in Mrs. Earlywine's class-Iberia fifth graders in Mrs. Earlywine's class were interviewed for the Veterans Project. They are pictured, from left: Levi Pemberton and Collin Barnhart; middle row: Avery Salamone, Brody Russell, Kayleighann Gibson, Sophia Tidwell, Brooklyn Davenport, Coyer Farnham, Mackenzie Pyke, Trayton Dye and Dakota Leigh; back row: Ryker Piggott, Liam Martin, Weston Moss, Hallie Russell and Mrs. Earlywine.



Iberia R-V sixth grade students in Mrs. Cochran's class-Iberia R-V sixth grade students in Mrs. Cochran's class are pictured in no particular order: Malachi Pemberton, Nolan Hensley, Jaxon Pemberton, Brooklyn Moulder, Ethan Brooks, Luke Malmberg, Adriana Long, Adalyn Sturgeon Duncan, Aurora Sylvester, Michael Stone, Isabelle Wilson, Shauntee Luttrell, Jessica Goeway and Lilly McComb.

The following essays are from Mrs. Cochran's class.

By Mason Turner
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It is to celebrate the people that served our country.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because they risked their lives to save ours.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would tell them thank you for risking their lives for us.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My great-great grandpa served in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, I want to be in the Air Force when I get older.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
He goes out and risks his life to fight our wars and take out threats so we don't get hurt.

By Eli Crossland
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It's a day to honor people who served in the military.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To show respect to the people who have served in the military.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for protecting my country and serving in the military.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, My dad served in the Navy and my Grandpa served in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, I have plans to serve.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To serve our country and to protect us.

By Ethan Brooks
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
We thank all the Veterans that serve and we thank them for what they did for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor veterans and show them support and tell them thank you for everything they have done for us and it might make them feel good.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would tell them thank you for your service and thank you for protecting each and every one of us. We really appreciate everything you have done for the U.S.A.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my grandpa Dave used to serve in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, I want to be an American sniper because I can shoot very well and I don't shake at all.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They can be in any branch and they can also be in a marching band or anything else to do in the Army.

By Shaunlee Luttrell
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It's a day where we and other people honor the people who risked their lives for our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To show appreciation to our veterans.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would tell thank you for your service and doing good in the world.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes my brother Joseph is going in the National Guard.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Maybe, I'm still deciding.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They serve to keep our country safe. They can do multiple things depending on what branch they go into.

By Malachi Pemberton
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Veterans Day means we honor Veterans who have served in the military.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
I honor Veterans Day for the people who served and risked their lives for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would thank a veteran by giving him/her a painting of the United States flag.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
I had a grandpa in the U.S. Navy. His name was Bob.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier protects the United States of America.

By Jaxon Pemberton
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It honors veterans that are brave enough to serve our country and soldiers who are currently serving our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To show our appreciation for them.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would make them a picture to show my appreciation for them.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My grandpa Duke was in the Air Force and my cousin Jim was in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't have plans to serve.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To fight and protect on land, sea and in the air.

By Luke Malmberg
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It is the day we honor people who risked their lives.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To honor the people who served in the military.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would tell them thank you for my freedom in America today.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My grandpa Randy served in the military a long time ago.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No I don't have plans to serve in the military.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To fight and protect on land, sea and in the air.

By Aurora Sylvester
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It is to honor the people who served us in wars.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor them because we care about the people who fought for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for serving us all and make them a picture.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My dad. He served in the United States Air Force, but sadly he died two years ago.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't have plans to serve in the military because I don't want to die.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They help fight for our country.

By Michael Stone
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means to make a good time for the people who helped fight the wars to show them you appreciate them.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
So they know we thank them for fighting for our country and freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My Pawpaw named Roy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't have any plans for going into the Army.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier fights for our freedom and keeps us safe.

By Addie D
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Veterans Day is a day we honor people who put their lives on the line for their country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
They went out and put their lives on hold for their country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would make them a piece of artwork.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle Brian was in Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No I don't.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Soldiers fight for their and their family.


Thank You, Veterans!
We salute your service, and wish you a happy Veterans Day.
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573-793-2211 John and Renae Fancher

Iberia R-V fifth and sixth grade veteran's interviews continued

By Nolan Hensley
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To pay to soldiers that have served or fallen in the military.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

We recognize the soldiers who have fought or fallen to keep us free.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say hello and thanks for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

No. I don't have any family in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Yes, I would like to serve in the Army for five years.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To work at a computer or fight in the field.

By Jessica Goeway
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Where we serve all of the people who were in the military a long time ago or in the military now.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To serve and say thank you and show appreciation on a specific day.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you by making them a painting, drawings or a picture of someone in the military.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes I do. My great-great grandpa named Robert Goeway, Jr.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To help people who are hurt or to honor other people.

By Brooklyn M.
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

How important they fought for the flag and how some people died for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because of how important they are to us and for getting the flag for us all.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for saving our country and getting this country for us.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandfather Jerry Henderson was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Yes, to honor my grand-pa and to save our country.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To fight for us and in war. His job was build soccer fields, softball and baseball fields and to build roads.

By Isabella Wilson
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To me Veterans Day is when everybody takes a moment or a day where we honor our past veterans who fought so hard for our freedom.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Veterans risked their lives to help us and keep our country safe.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would tell them "Thank you for risking your life to keep all of us safe." I would also paint them a picture.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandfather Darrold is in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

After I finish college, I plan on going into the military.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier protects their country and keeps it safe no matter what.

The following interviews are from students in Mrs. Rowden's class.

By Justin
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day means to congratulate and celebrate veterans for serving and sacrificing their lives.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To thank the people who

fought for our country.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you for fighting for our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My dad was in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?

There is a chance, but I'm not sure.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Soldiers train, like doing shooting drills. Some of them fly in helicopters and try to find targets from above. They mostly train to protect our country.

By Skyler Beabout
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day means a lot to me because certain people risk their lives to serve for our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I think we honor Veterans Day because they give us our freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say "I appreciate what you do and thank you so much."

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I don't think I have any relatives in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier goes out and fights for our country and our freedom.

By Hunter Brand
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day means home because they are the ones who serve our country and I think we should serve them because of what they have done.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because we would not be here without them.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for serving our country and thank you for what you have done.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandpa served in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, but if I had to I would serve in the military.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

I think soldiers serve our country.

By Reese Conner
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To thank soldiers who fought in the Army for our freedom.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To honor those who fought for us and are still fighting for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you for your service or I would just say thank you.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandpa was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No. Because I do not like the sound of guns/

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They fight for our freedom.

By Brenna Davis
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To me it means veterans were in the military and let us be free.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because they fought for our freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for our freedom and your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I don't have any relatives in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Not really, but I might.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Soldiers fight to give us freedom.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?



By Bennett Whittle
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It's a day we honor people who fought and are still fighting.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To show respect for the people who have died and who are still fighting.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandpa served in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

I do not want to serve in the military.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To protect us from other military sources.

By Trace Jenkins
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means to me a day to honor all veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because veterans fight for our country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service Mr. or Miss.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes, my dad is in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Yes, since my is doing it. I am.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Soldiers protect the U.S.A. and help people in need.

By Judah J.
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means a day to remember those who sacrificed. To me a veteran is someone who has served in the military of any branch. A veteran is someone who has trained and put their lives on the line, possibly not just in wars but other things.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because these people who put their lives on the line deserve to be thanked and remembered for their service.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Excuse me, sir or ma'am, I would just like to thank you for serving and I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes, my great-great grandpa was in the Army and my papie was in the Coast Guard.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

I have to put some thought into it. I want to do it as a remembrance of my great-great grandpa.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To train and go to work for our freedom and our country. The also put their whole life on the line as a dad, grandpa, friend and more.

The following are student interviews from Mrs. Warnol's class.

By Matthus Nuttle
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

They went to battle for us, was willing to leave family and took the risk of losing their lives.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

So, we show that we have respect for veterans that served for us and died or watched fellow soldiers die.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I'm going to shake their hand and say thank you.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My cousin is getting ready to join the Air Force. My mom's dad was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They fly jets, mechanics, work on computers and make videos.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

We are proud of them and love them for fighting for our freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I'm going to shake their hand and say thank you.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My cousin is getting ready to join the Air Force. My mom's dad was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They fly jets, mechanics, work on computers and make videos.

By Brooklyn Baxter
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means a lot because they served our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because they served in the military branches and fought in wars.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

You would shake their hand and say thank you.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes my grandpa.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To keep the U.S.A safe and to fight in the war.

By Prezlie Fritchey
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day is when you celebrate the young and even old soldiers that fought for you.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I think we honor Veterans Day because of the soldiers that fought for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Floyd was a U.S. Army soldier.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Yes, I want to be a U.S. Army soldier.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They fight for our country.

By Trevor Moore
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day means a lot to me because my papa was a veteran and he passed away last year so Veterans Day is very special.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I feel like it means it is a

celebration.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because veterans risked their lives for us and they served our country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service and give them respect.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes. I have two cousins who served for our country. I also had my grandpa that served. I'm not sure what branch.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, I don't want o take a chance at dying so I can pass on the Moore last name.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

He/she serves to protect the U.S.A. to protect the citizens and his/her family.

By Ambrosiah Salamone
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

I feel happy and thankful.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because they protect us and keep us safe as much as possible.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for keeping all of these people's home's safe.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My uncle and my big sister. My uncle served in the Navy and my sister served in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

I want to serve in the Navy or military like my uncle or sister.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They will protect the nation and all of the innocent people who live here.

By Daylon Hausermann
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It is a day to celebrate the men and women who served for our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because the soldiers risked their lives and left their family to protect us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would shake their hand and thank them for their service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I don't know.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Each soldier has a different job but some are pilots, cooks, engineers, and drillers.

By Trenton Patterson
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

I feel like it means it is a

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Iberia R-V fifth and sixth grade Veterans Day interviews continued

By Payson Duncan
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To me Veterans Day means to think all the men and women who was in the military.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor Veterans Day for all the people that served in the military to thank them for helping our country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would make them a card and shake their hand and thank them for their service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My grandpa was in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier can do a lot like fly a helicopter.

By Keith Workman
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
An honored day for the people who fought for the U.S.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
For the people who died and fought for our United States.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would salute and say thank you for fighting with strength and determination.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
No answer.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, I would do the Air Force.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To listen and serve the president of the United States.

By Gracie Duncan
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means we get to celebrate all the people that fought for us in the war even if it means the retired or the ones who gave their lives for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor veterans because it shows all the people in the military and veterans that they have done a good thing for us and they are very special.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for your service and everything you have done and shake their hand.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes my grandpa was in the military.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I know it's very important but I don't think it's something I would want to do.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Serve and protect our country and our lives.

By Violet Griffin
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It makes me feel sad and proud because I have people in my family who are veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We want veterans to know that they are appreciated and that we shouldn't forget about the veterans who died.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for serving our country and shake their hand.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
On my mom's side of the family, my great-grandmom's brothers served in a war. I don't know what branch.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
There are five branches of the military. They are the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marines. The Coast Guard goes just around the coast of the U.S.A. The Marines goes everywhere in the water and the Navy does both. The Air Force can fly helicopters, air planes and they can also parachute.

By Gaston Wilkes
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Celebrating the veterans who served in the military.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
They fought for our freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for giving your time to serve our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

they serve in?
Yes, My uncle Craig was in the Marines, my great-grandpa Blakely was in the Navy and my great-grandpa Ewan was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I prefer the financial part.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They train to serve our country and their job is to fight for our freedom.

The following are from Mrs. Johnson's class.
By Nolan Pemberton
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means all the people in my family that died for the country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because of the all the people that died.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for fighting for the country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my great-grandpa served in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, if I don't get an electrician job.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They fight. My great-grandpa rode planes and boats.

By Tyler
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day where we all respect the people that risked their lives for other people to save America.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To give the respect that they deserve.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for helping the country stay in its place that it is in right now.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
She was in the ground force, and served in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes, I will serve in any war I have to.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier does not get forced into the military. They get to choose. They are supposed to protect their people, family and country.

By Asher
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day to celebrate who has worked for wars.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To honor all the men and women who served in the military.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Putting your hand to your heart like a knife and shoot it out.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My great-great-grandpa who was a Marine. He died by a cannon.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I do not.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier has to fight, or even has to fight in a war. They could even gun people who run up close in a tunnel dug up.

By Corbin
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It makes me happy because of my papa.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To give thanks for all the soldiers.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I'd give them a round of applause.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My cousin Seth Shuster. He was in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, because if I had kids they would miss me.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To defend our country.

By Dax
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It replaced Amistice Day in 1954.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To thank people that serve us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my uncle Lance served in the military. He is retired.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They work for the military.

By Augie
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
That they had to fight for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
I think we honor them because they died fighting for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
By saying I am happy you fought for us and our freedom.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My great-grandpa fought in the Marines.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Their job is to fight and help their country.

By Callie
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To honor the men and women that served.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because they sacrifice their lives.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
I have three, but don't know who.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Fight for our land.

By Hailey
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To care about all the soldiers that died for all of us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To thank all the soldiers that died for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for keeping us safe.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My Opa used to be in the be in the military, but he retired a few years ago. I don't know what branch he served in.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Nope, I would definitely die.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier protects their country and they keep it safe with weapons.

By Bryleigh
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Honoring veterans and killed the wars

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
For those who died and what they did for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you sir.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My grandpa used to be in the military. He was in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To protect our country.

By Emerson
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To celebrate the people who were in wars, or have fought for our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To say thank you to the veterans.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for fighting for our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my great-grandpa was in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Fight, and go to war.

By Tanner
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It is important to me because it reminds me of all the people that risked their lives for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To remember when all the veterans risked their lives for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my grandpa was a commissioner.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
A soldier goes in to war and tries to win the war.

The following are from students in Mrs. Earlywine's class.
By Dakota Leigh
What does Veterans Day mean to you?

When I remember someone I loved that died during war, or what happened with the twin towers.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To thank them even though some of them are not here to tell them thank you for what you did for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Salute and say thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, on my mom's side, his name is Noah. I don't know what branch. He got married not too long ago. Also my papa. His name is Richard, but I call him Papa Rick.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't know yet. Right now I want to be a mortician.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They leave their family to fight for us, taking the risk of dying to protect us.

By Brooklyn Davenport
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To remember the people I loved and I was really close to, and they died.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To remember the people that died while fighting for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for your service, and I would salute.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
No. But I still celebrate Veterans Day.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't know yet.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They fight for us.

By Ryker Piggott
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
All the people who risked their lives to save us and make us safe.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To appreciate all those people who risked their lives to save us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thanks for your honor and helping the country be a better place.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My great-grandpa, but I don't know what branch.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No. I plan on playing professional sports.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They protect our country from being destroyed. They risk their lives to save us.

By Bentley Lekey
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
My pop and my dad were veterans and they both passed away, so it means a lot to me.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To have them know we love them.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My pop was a Marine. My dad was in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To fight for our freedom.

By Levi Pemberton
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It makes me remember about the people who sacrificed themselves to save us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because they sacrificed themselves for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
No.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To save us.

By Avery Salamone
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day to celebrate veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because of the soldiers that are risking their lives.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you sir.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle was in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I used to, now I want to be a zookeeper.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Fight for freedom and protect America.

By Olivia Neuman
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To celebrate for what they do for us and what they fight for.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
For what they do and fight for us.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for everything you do and thank you for fighting for us.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
No.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Participate in or support military operations. Such as combat or training operations, humanitarian or disaster relief.

By Coltin Barnhart
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
I think that it is like when you celebrate somebody that is in the Army.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because it respects somebody that sacrificed their life.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service and all that you do for our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle is. My grandpa was in the Army before he passed away.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To save us and rise to fight for us and protect us.

By Trayton Dye
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means a lot because my uncle was one.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To celebrate our veterans.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle Jerry, I don't know what branch.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Maybe.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To protect, serve and fight.

By Mackenzie Pyke
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means a lot to me because my dad is a veteran.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because of the veterans that fought in World War I.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my dad and my grandpa who passed away. They were Marines.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They protect their country.

By Sadee Witt
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
I love Veterans Day. I know I could not do what they did.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To remember how brave they are.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, his name is Brad. I don't know what branch.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To fight in a war.

By Weston Moss
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day to celebrate the men and women who died and fought for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because they fought for our freedom.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
By giving them \$1,000,000,000,000,000.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, tons, can't name them all.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Maybe.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
Fight for freedom.

By Coyes Farnham
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means a lot to me because a lot of my family were in the Army.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To remember all of the people who fought and died in the war.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle Mike fought in Vietnam, and my grandpa George.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
(no answer)

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
(no answer)

By Hallie Russell
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day to celebrate and appreciate all the things vets fought for and died for us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because so many people died fighting for our freedom. So I think we should honor them.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for everything and for saving our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, my grandpa and my great-grandpa. My grandpa did all the desks, my great-grandpa actually fought.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't, but it would be cool and scary at the same time.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
They fight for our freedom. Her or his job is to not die and to win.

By Brody Russell
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Honor our veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
For the men who died.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Salute.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, but I do not remember what he did.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Yes.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
To save our country.

By Liam Martin
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To remember all the people who died in war.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To honor all the people that died and served for our country.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for keeping our country safe.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
I don't think so.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
He or she makes sure we stay safe.



High Point R-III students who participated in the Veterans Project-High Point R-III students who participated in the Veterans Project are pictured, from left, front: Isaiah Brubaker, Makayla Salchow, Riley Michels, Wyatt Barry, Audrey Rissler, Harper Bradshaw, Ellie Pearson, Zoe Brummett, Leita Armes, and Lydia Armes; back row: Isaac Winingar, Austin Cook, Stella Shoemaker (front), Aydan Lietzke (back), Jaelea Hall, Blair Hale, Addie VanDeBerg, Kendal Wright, Kandy Weeces, Brighton Miller, Barron Hale and Dane Fisher.

High Point R-III students give their thoughts on Veterans Day

By Austin

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It is a day to celebrate the veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
It is a day to celebrate the veterans.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for serving for our country.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
My great grandpa was in World War II.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I do not have plans to serve in the military.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
I do not know what a soldier does.

By Blair

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means we celebrate the veterans that served for us
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because they save us and help us
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for protecting us.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
No, I do not.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, instead I would help my community.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
They have military jobs and they all do good.

By Dane

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
It means a lot because they serve our country.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
I think we honor it because they do a lot for us and give us freedom.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you for your service.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
No answer.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I do not have any plans to serve in the military.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
A soldier serves and fights for our country.

By Barron

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Veterans Day is an important day because it celebrates those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. It is also important because it is when my brother was born.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
It is for those who sacrifice their lives for our freedom.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for everything you have done for us. Thank you for serving for our country.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
I do not have relatives in the military.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't have a plan to serve in the military but if it's my last resort, sure.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
Soldiers protect the people who can't protect themselves or to protect us from other countries or terrorists.

By Audrey

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
What it means to me is honoring people who served or died in the Army.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because of the people who served in the Army.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for serving in the army and for serving America.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
My uncle used to serve in the Army but I don't know what branch though. Also my grandpa served in the Army but he died before I was born.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I'm scared of the military!
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
To serve and kill people

By Brighton

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
A day to honor veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
Because we need to say thank you.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for all that you have done to serve our country.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
Yes, Maurice Pearson, he served in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
A soldier's job is to defend our country.

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By Lydia

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Veterans Day is very important to me because three people in my family was a veteran and I respect the veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We respect Veterans Day because they fought for the United States.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you to them and I would never be disrespectful to a veteran.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch?
Yes, I have three relatives that were veterans. My grandpa, his name is Darvin Rogers. He was in the Air Force. My grandma, Jody Barnhill. She was in the Army. My stepdad Paul Mickenzie was in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Maybe, I think I would possibly go and serve in the army. The reason I would possibly service in the army is because three people in my family have been a veteran and I want to carry it on.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
Their job is to protect the United States and their people.

By Ellie

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Veterans Day means to me people fought for us to have freedom.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor veterans because people have died and fought for their country.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for giving your life for us.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch?
I have one family member in the military. I don't know what branch he is in. He is my cousin.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I just don't want to get hurt.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
A soldier is someone who actually goes and fights people.

By Zoe B

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Veteran's Day means to me celebrating those who served and died or who are still here.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor Veterans Day because it is respectful and they fought and served our country.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
You say "thank you" by saying "thank you for serving our country".
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch?
I have my grandpa who fought in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I don't plan on being in the military.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
A soldier is important and it can be life taking. They fight protecting us.

By Leita

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To me, Veterans Day means to appreciate the ones who have fought for our country and even if these lives were taken to save others.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
I think we honor Veterans Day to show that we honor the ones who fought.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say thank you by probably making a video or a letter to show I thank them for fighting for our country.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
My grandpa, Darvin Rogers built the plane. I am pretty sure, I just know he worked with planes. I think he would fix them when they had little damage.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
I think if I was good enough, I would serve in the military.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
Soldiers train and fight for us in battles.

By Riley

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
Celebrate for our warriors and guardians.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
To remember our veterans.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
Thank you for protecting us.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch?
A pilot in World War II, Army infantry World War II, worked in headquarters.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
Maybe.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
To protect America and keep us free.

By Harper

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
To me, Veterans Day is a day to honor people who have and are serving.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
We honor Veterans Day so that everyone who served or is serving knows we care.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
I would say that I am very thankful for them and that they are amazing.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, who, and what branch of the military did they serve in?
No, I don't have anyone in the military.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
No, I don't.
What does a soldier do. What is his or her job?
A soldier fights for us and risks his or her life.

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Did you know?

Estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that there were around 19 million veterans in the United States in 2021. Veterans Day, observed each year on November 11, honors all those who served honorably in the U.S. military during both wartime and peacetime. Data from the VA indicates that, as of 2016, Gulf War veterans account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans. Roughly 7.8 million veterans served during the Gulf War. Vietnam veterans also make up a sizable percentage of U.S. military veterans, as VA estimates indicate there were approximately 5.9 million veterans who fought in the

Vietnam War in 2021. Though veterans need not have served in wartime in order to be recognized and honored on Veterans Day, the vast majority of U.S. veterans served during wartime. According to the VA, 78 percent of veterans in 2021 had served during wartime.

Salute to Veterans

Tuscumbia Miller County R-III seventh and eighth grade veteran's letters

**By Shyann Roller
Seventh grade**

Dear Veteran,
I want to thank you for fighting for this country that we live in.

Thank you for your sacrifices that you made when you wanted to be a soldier.

I really appreciate you for sacrificing a lot of stuff. Maybe you missed the birth of a child if you have kids.

Thank you for the respect you and other veterans give this country.

Thank you for the loyalty you show this country. Thank you for risking a lot of things for people's freedom.

I know that if a lot of people could say thank to you, they would. I really appreciate you for a lot of things.

I know it is your duty to serve this country but you made the choice and I really appreciate that you did.

I respect you for choosing to serve this country.

Thank you for risking your sleeping time and not getting to see your family.

I like how you have integrity. It means a lot that you are doing the best you can so we can live in this country.

I hope you can see your family soon and thank you for everything.

**By Messiah S.
Seventh grade**

Dear Veteran,
Thank you for serving our country. Please remember to

keep your head held high and don't give up.

Whatever you are going through, being deployed, you will get through it. It may take a while, but you've got this.

Thank you and any of your family members who honored our country. I hope you know I appreciate you a lot.

It must be hard to sleep when there is artillery firing, conflict or uncomfortable places to sleep.

Did you get MREs. If so, what is your favorite MRE you've had? What duties did you have during deployment? Did you sleep on a cot? When did you have to get up in the morning?

Thank you for doing your duty for this country! I bet you are an amazing person. It's important to have integrity so you can do good things and be honored even more, especially by your crewmates you were with. I hope you got an award for serving our country.

Again, thank you.

By an eighth grade student

Dear Veteran,
Thank you for your service. You mean a lot to our country. You show a great value of loyalty to our country and we greatly appreciate it.

Our country, as a whole, values your selflessness as you put yourself in a line of danger in order for us to be free and have freedoms.

We admire your integrity, that you are always doing the right thing. We also admire your courage and bravery. Courage and bravery are really good traits to have in order to be able to serve our country. I especially admire your bravery because I could never be so brave to risk my life for people I don't even know, unlike people like you.

Thank you for all of your sacrifices, big and small. You are always away from your family, which can be really hard.

Many people don't realize all the small things that soldiers go through like missing family events and special moments. You guys work so hard everyday and you go through so many challenges that there is no possible way that we can express how much thanks you deserve. Thank you for everything you do and Happy Veterans Day.

By Alyssa

Hi, my name is Alyssa. I thank you for serving our country. I thank you for you loyalty while fighting for my freedom.

It would be really hard to stay loyal while fighting.

What is it like being deployed overseas? I hope you never lost loved ones. I thank you again for your loyalty.

I thank you for honoring our country. Thank you for

sacrificing some people or things you loved.

I could never spend more than a couple of weeks without my family. My family means the world to me, and you sacrificed that to honor our country.

What branch of the military were you in? You sacrificed the little things and even the little things can be a lot; like a pet. I love my dog. She is a very good dog, fat and spoiled, but a good dog.

Your integrity and willingness to fight is very much appreciated. Integrity is hard to have. Doing the right thing when no one is looking is hard. It is very tempting to the wrong thing and yet you did the right thing.

How did you get interested in serving our country? Did you have a relative or encouragement from someone to go? I had a great grandpa on each side of my family serve. So thank you for serving.

By Mikenzy

Dear Veteran,
I would like to start by saying thank you for everything you do for our country. I appreciate you for risking your life to fight for your people.

Thank your for your strength and kindness, and for giving us freedom.

Thank you for your sacrifices. It must be hard not

being able to see your family.

I am grateful for people like you who fight for our nation.

I appreciate you stepping in when others stepped back.

I appreciate you more than you will ever know. Thank you for your honor. I appreciate your sacrifices, your valor, and the things you carry, defending our rights and protecting us.

By Tanley

Dear Veteran,
Thank you for serving our country. You have honored your country in so many ways.

You risked your life for us and the country. Your duty is respected. You had a lot of courage to go into the military

Thank you for making the sacrifice of your life. You respected our country by giving us freedom.

You had to sacrifice seeing your family. Thank you for everything you have done for our country.

You are a role model to people. You're very important.

Thank you for fighting for

us. You're very brave. You are a real hero. We are lucky to have someone like you be a veteran. God bless you for serving your time.

Thank you again.

**By Lily
seventh grade**

Dear Veteran,
Thank you for your service. I'm writing you today to show my appreciation for what you do for our country.

Thank you for all the sacrifices you made for us and the loyalty you show for the USA.

I am very grateful for your selfless service and integrity. The world needs more people like you doing the right thing even when nobody is watching. I will never know or even begin to understand the struggles or hardships you faced.

I'm glad that there are people protecting me and my country. I'm so grateful for your honor and respect in the line of duty. I'm gonna wrap it up now by saying "Thank you!"



Student interviews teacher who is a veteran

**By Miller County R-III eighth grader
Brooke Hayes**

Veterans are one of the reasons why we are able to live in freedom in America. To honor them, I interviewed a local Veteran. His name is Toby Dinwiddie.

He served for eight years in the Missouri Army National Guard. I asked him the following questions: Why did you join? Was it hard being away from your family? Who did you miss the most? What kept you going while you served? What is your favorite memory and least favorite memory from when you served?

The reason that Mr. Dinwiddie joined the Missouri Army National Guard was because he needed money for college and to help his family. He told me that he had always been interested in joining the military and he wanted direction in his life.

One special thing he told me was that he was really struggling and he was in a dark spot, so one day he googled "help me" and prayed. One of the things he found in his search was a phone number for an Army recruiter.

He called the number and left a message. Shortly after, they called him back and they set up a time to meet and discuss joining the Missouri Army National Guard.

When I asked him if it was hard being away from his family, he said that it was very difficult being away, especially since he had never been away from them for even one night. It was hardest to be away from his pregnant wife and two young boys.

While he was away, he missed the birth of his daughter. Providing for his family and wanting them to be proud of him kept him going. His boys looked up to him, and he could not wait until he could return home.

One of his favorite memories was being awarded during his time with the Missouri Army National Guard, and graduating with honors. He also really enjoyed competing with others in Soldier of the Year/NCO of the year competitions.

The fondest memory of course was seeing his daughter for the first time as he got off the plane to come home from training.

One thing that really

inspired him, and others, was a soldier whose last name was Bradberry. He told me that he had a soldier's heart, even though he had leg problems. He was a short man and his boots were too big for him.

One day, towards the culmination of their training, they had to do a 12 mile ruck march. Bradberry had so much passion and was a very hard worker.

Bradberry had pushed through it all to finish even though the odds were against him. When he finished, Bradberry poured blood out of his boots. Mr. Dinwiddie said a win for him was a win for everybody in the company.

One of his least favorite memories was when he failed a very important test in Arizona. He said if you fail the test twice, you would have to wait several months to come home.

Failure was not an option for him, as he desperately wanted to see his family, including his newborn daughter. Luckily, he passed the second attempt with ease and graduated with the rest of his troop.

An important thing he told me was that being in the



Miller County R-III Veterans Project authors-Some of the Tuscumbia seventh and eighth grade students who wrote the Veterans Project letters are pictured with teacher Toby Dinwiddie.

military is a very honorable and great experience. He believes it was an honor to serve his country, his brothers and sisters on his left and right, and his community.

Today, he enjoys recognizing other ways to

serve others and our great country, and empowers us to do the same in our daily lives. Mr. Dinwiddie inspires me because despite having lung issues(he later found out after joining), he was able to go through the very difficult military training that soldiers

are required to complete. Thank you for your service Mr. Dinwiddie and thank you to all past and current members of the military.

Eugene Cole R-V students write veteran acrostic poems

The following are acrostic Veterans Day poems from Eugene Cole R-V students in Carla Ousley's class.

By MaeLee-A

Veterans risked their lives for us.

Everything they do is to protect us.

They fought for our freedom.

Each year we celebrate veterans day so we can remember what they do for us.

Remembering each year what they do for our country.

And for the little kids, oh don't really know what veterans day is. So they can learn about it and what they do for our country.

Nothing is better than knowing that we are safe thanks to our veterans.

Some things like Veterans Day are very important. Because we know who fought for our country.

By Fox

Veterans fight for their country

Everybody should always be nice to veterans

Tanks are what veterans use to blow stuff up

Everybody should applaud veterans

Remember all the veterans

Air force is a part of the army that fight for their lives

Nurses also could die

Save lives in the army

By Aaliyah

Very respectful of our

country.

Every time there's a war they step up and fight.

They help people that are in danger.

Everything they do is right even if they make a small mistake.

Right to care for our country.

Are doing the right thing.

Not violent or disrespectful.

Save our country for people.

By Jaden

Veterans deserve more

Every veteran is GREAT at what they do

The veterans don't have what they deserve

Every veteran needs more days

Revenge is a veterans diner

All veterans have a good aim

Never mess with a veteran

Some veterans are cool

By Aubrielle G.

Veterans Day is one of the best days because we get to see and make sure you're ok.

Excited that you saved our country.

Thank you for serving our country.

Excited that you are safe and ok.

Rarely some people that come back from the military are hurt.

Army is really dangerous and we want to make sure you wont get hurt.

Nothing can stop people

like you from going into the military.

So happy that you made it out ok.

By Ozzy G.

Veterans are people that serve.

Ending wars they saved us. They worked to keep America free.

Everyone loves and needs veterans.

Right now you can support retired veterans.

And we thank you for serving our country.

Now Veterans day is coming.

So thank you to our veterans.

By Lathan G.

Veterans please stand up

Everyone please applaud these heroic human beings

They are life savers and a lot more

Each and everyone of them have a place in someone's heart

Rethink this though they are our heroes

Anyone can be happy about this

No one should be against this

So everyone please please thank these people

By Eli K

Veterans are people who fight for their country.

Everyone loves veterans because they serve their country.

Thank you for serving are country. You really are the

best.

Everyone should support veterans they serve in their country.

Right now you need to go support our country.

All veterans risk their lives for us and their state.

Now you need to go and support your country and thank all the veterans.

So thank you veterans for serving your country.

By Ryder L.

Veterans are always there

Every day they should be thanked

The people that serve in it

Everyone probably have one person in it

Ran around the world

And they deserve a prize

Nuts the people are heroes

Send someone that served in the army

By Ryan S.



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St. Elizabeth R-IV students participating the Veterans Project-St. Elizabeth R-IV students who participated in the Veterans Day Project are pictured, from left, front: Mekhi Selin, Cohen Faulkner, Rita Wieberg, Alayna Oligschlaeger, Beau Struempf, Taven Blain, Corbin Bruemmer, Saige Brune and Preston Plassmeyer; back row: Averi Gilpin, Kamry Kemna, Rosemary Schuelen, Kendall Wieberg, Tyson Otto, Cooper Lueckenotto, Aiden Wieberg and Mrs. Cathy Engelmeyer

St. Elizabeth R-IV fifth graders give their thoughts on Veterans Day

By Rose

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Celebrating people in war.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because veterans died.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

No.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Maybe, I thought of it before.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier dies for their country. Their job depends on what branch they serve in.

By Averi

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It makes me feel that we get to celebrate special people and thank them.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I think we honor Veterans Day to thank the Army for fighting.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for fighting to make our country better.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I did have a relative in the military. That was my great-grandpa, and he was in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

They fight for peace and a free and safe country.

By Corbin

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Means to celebrate people that were in the armed forces and still are.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I think we honor Veterans Day because we can give them a medal or a speech.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I have my uncle and he was in the Marines.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

I do not have plans to serve in the military, because if we went to war I would probably die.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Veterans Day means a lot to



His or her job is to help other people and fight for America.

By Aiden

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means I appreciate them.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

For all the things they did for me.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes. My great-grandpa Urban Voss. I think he served in the U.S. Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Yes, I do.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

His job is to protect everybody and serve for the country.

By Preston

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

A day to remember our veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To honor the ones that fight.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for keeping us safe.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

(no answer)

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier protects our country to keep us safe.

By Kendall

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

Veterans Day means a lot to

me because my great uncle Carl was a soldier.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

I think we honor Veterans Day because soldier means a lot to some people.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would say thank you by giving them a thank you card or a hand shake.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I did. He served in the Navy.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, because I want to be a vet.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier's job is to protect his or her people. His or her job is to protect America.

By Cooper

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

We honor people who served.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

We honor people who served in the military.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for your service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandpa, he was in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Sure.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To protect their country.

By Tyson

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

That we pray for our veterans.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To celebrate our veterans.

How would you say

thank you to a veteran?

By saying thank you sir.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes, one of my great-grandpas from each side. They both served in the Army.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, I do not.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier serves for his or her country in battle.

By Kamry

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To me, it means you take a little time to appreciate your military for all their hard work and good deeds.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

So we can remember the people who died fighting for our country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

By greeting them and telling them how much I appreciate them and their service.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

Yes, my uncle Vic.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, but I might change my mind as I get older.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier fights in wars and protects our country. Their job is to fight to keep us safe so we can live a great, long life.

By Cohen

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

We celebrate who served.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

For the people who work in the Army, they work hard to keep this country safe. They are not going to stop keeping

us safe.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for serving our country and making us stay alive.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My dad, my grandpa, great-grandpa, and my great-great-great-grandpa.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Maybe, because I like the military.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

To keep this country safe.

By Taven

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To honor the people that work for the Army, police and all other jobs.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

For what they do to protect us and keep us here.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

I would thank them for serving the U.S.A. and helping people.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

(no answer)

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No, but I want to be a cop.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

I think a soldier fights to protect the people of the U.S.A.

By Saige

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To honor people who served for our country.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To give thanks for the ones who risk their lives.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

Thank you for serving our

country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

I did, but not any more.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

Maybe, depends on how I am when I'm 18.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

Fights to serve our country. Their job is to kill the people that are trying to kill them.

By Alayna

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It is a day where we honor what people have done for our country and the things they have sacrificed. I feel we should have to say thank you.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

Because they have sacrificed so much to help protect our country. It is a way to tell them thank you and honor them for what they have done.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

By shaking their hand and telling them thank you for the service you have done to protect our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My grandpa. He worked on machinery.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier trains to fight in war and will fight in a war if needed. Their job is to protect our country.

By Rita

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

It means a lot because it helps support the people who care about us.

Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?

To respect the people who served our country.

How would you say thank you to a veteran?

You walk up to them and say thanks for serving our country.

Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?

My uncle Benjamin used to be in the Air Force.

Do you have plans to serve in the military?

No.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?

A soldier protects our country and be prepared every day.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School students show their appreciation for veterans

Mrs. Werdehausen

By Kenzie
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 It is a day when we thank our veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 They fight for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I would salute them.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My uncle.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 A soldier fights in the military.

By Liam
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 Thanking our veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Veterans keep us safe.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I would salute them.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My uncle, I don't know the branch.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 I plan on being in the Air Force.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 They fight in the war.

By Jay
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 A day for veterans to be respected.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Veterans serve our country.
How would you say

thank you to a veteran?
 I would salute them.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 No, I do not.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 Soldiers serve our country.

By Hatti
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 It is a day to thank veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Veterans fight in a war.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I will say thank you for saving me.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My cousin is in the Navy.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 I think they train and fight.

By Colton
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 The soldiers show their love.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 The military serve in war for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I will salute to the soldier.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My dad is in the National Guard, and my great-great-grandpa was in the Air Force.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 I plan to be in the Air Force.

What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 The soldier fights for our country.

Our Lady of the Snows Ms. Grellner

By Mays
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 I think of my family that is in the military.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because they keep us safe.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Thank you for your service.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 Yes, I think they are in the U.S. Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 I do not know, maybe.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 To save us from harm.

By Charlotte
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 I am happy that people served in the military.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because they sacrificed their lives for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Thank you for serving in the military.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My grandpa served.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 They are fighting for us.

By Madison

What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 To me it means thanking the military.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 To honor veterans that passed away. It's a way to thank them for dying for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Thank you for serving our country.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My brother was in the Navy. My dad was in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 To fight for our country.

By Henry
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 I get sad because people died for saving our country.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 The veterans serve our country.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Give them a hug.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 No, I do not.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 A soldier serves their lives for others.

By Nolan
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 I celebrate Veterans Day.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because I feel like the veterans deserve a day to

celebrate them.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I'd make them a card.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My great-grandpa was in the Air Force.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 Maybe, if I do I will be in the Air Force.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 They fight for our freedom.

By Brooklin B.
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 When we celebrate veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because we love our veterans, because they fought for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Say thank you for fighting for us.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 Yes, my grandpa fought in the U.S. Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 To fight for us.

By Jace
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 It is a day we say thank you to veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because they fight for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 I would make them a card.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did

they serve in?
 My uncle served in the Army.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 Yes, I will be a soldier when I get older.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 A soldier fights for people.

By Elsi
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 It celebrates the people who serve in the military.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 Because people could die and they fight for us.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Say thank you for serving the military.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 No, I do not.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 Soldiers help. Their job is to fight for us.

By Vivian
What does Veterans Day mean to you?
 We celebrate veterans.
Why do you think we honor Veterans Day?
 To honor the people who served in the military.
How would you say thank you to a veteran?
 Say thank you.
Do you have relatives in the military? If so, what branch of the military did they serve in?
 My grandpa.
Do you have plans to serve in the military?
 No, I do not.
What does a soldier do? What is his or her job?
 They serve in the military.

Facts about the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War is among the most complex conflicts in world history. The war ended in 1975 when South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam, but the effects of the conflict continue to reverberate today, nearly half a century later.

In March 1965, American President Lyndon Johnson made the decision to send U.S. combat forces into battle in Vietnam. Ultimately more than 2.5 million American troops would serve in South Vietnam alone. Since President Barack Obama signed a proclamation in 2012, Americans have commemorated the sacrifices its military personnel made during the war by celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29 (the holiday would be signed into law in 2017). One way to let Vietnam veterans know those sacrifices have not been forgotten is to learn about the war. Such knowledge can inspire a greater appreciation of the cost of the war on the service members who fought it.


Though President Johnson ordered combat troops into Vietnam in 1965, the conflict between North and South Vietnam began much earlier than that. North Vietnamese fighters began helping South Vietnamese rebels in 1954, marking a start to the conflict.

American involvement in combat began even before President Johnson sent troops to Vietnam in 1965. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. combat involvement is now recognized to have begun on January 12, 1962, which marks the launch of Operation Chopper. That operation required U.S. Army pilots to airlift more than 1,000 South Vietnamese

soldiers to an area west of Saigon to capture a territory that was being held by communist fighters.

- More than 58,000 American military personnel lost their lives as a result of the Vietnam War.
- Data from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency indicates that, as of April 2021, 1,584 Americans lost in the Vietnam War remain unaccounted for. The vast majority of unaccounted military personnel were lost in Vietnam, though hundreds were lost while serving in Laos, Cambodia and China.
- The number of U.S. troops in Vietnam peaked in April 1969. By that point, the U.S. government had deployed 543,000 troops to Vietnam.
- The last American ground troops left Vietnam on March 29, 1973. Fighting between the North and South Vietnamese would continue for two more years, but the United States would not return to Vietnam.

Honoring Our Flag



On June 14, 1923 the National Flag Code was adopted at the National Flag Conference.

The meeting was held in Washington D.C. to establish procedures for displaying the United States Flag. The code was based on Army and Navy practices. In 1942, Congress passed a joint resolution to make the Flag Code a law.

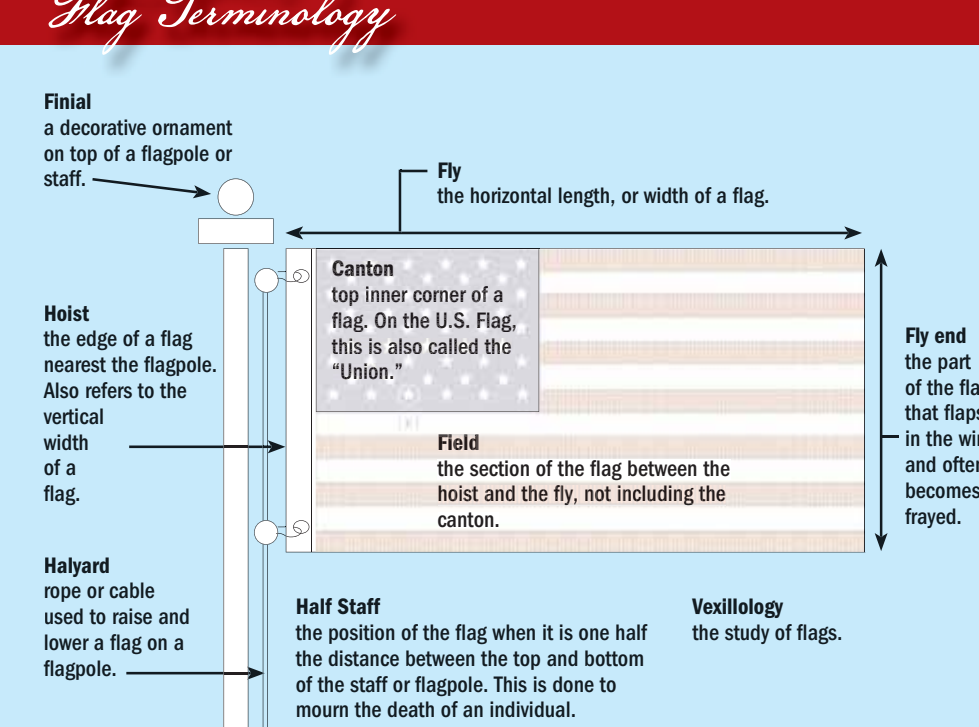
Today, we celebrate June 14 as Flag Day. Although it is a law, there are no penalties and the Flag Code is a voluntary guide for showing respect to the U.S. Flag. Forty-seven states have their own laws

with penalties that prohibit desecration of the flag or its use for advertising or publicity.

Flag Etiquette

- ★ The U.S. Flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset, unless it is well lit during the darkness.
- ★ The U.S. Flag should always be placed above other flags and pennants. There is one exception during a special Navy ceremony at sea.
- ★ On a stage, the U.S. Flag should always be placed behind the speaker and to his/her right.
- ★ When hanging the U.S. Flag vertically or horizontally from a wall or window, the canton, or union, should be at the top right of the flag. When you face the flag, it should be on your left.
- ★ On Memorial Day, the U.S. Flag is flown at half staff until noon, and then raised until sunset.
- ★ The President of the United States, governors and limited other government officials may direct the U.S. Flag to be flown at half staff.

Flag Terminology



Finial
a decorative ornament on top of a flagpole or staff.

Fly
the horizontal length, or width of a flag.

Hoist
the edge of a flag nearest the flagpole. Also refers to the vertical width of a flag.

Halyard
rope or cable used to raise and lower a flag on a flagpole.

Half Staff
the position of the flag when it is one half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff or flagpole. This is done to mourn the death of an individual.

Vexillology
the study of flags.

Activities

1. Look through your newspaper for pictures and stories of holidays, events and deaths where the U.S. Flag will be displayed.
2. Write an editorial giving your opinion on this topic: Should there be a Constitutional amendment making it illegal to burn our flag in protest or is burning the flag an expression that is part of our Freedom of Speech?

Learn More
 Research the Tripp Flag online to learn about the story behind this famous painting.
Missouri GLE: Social Studies 1D

Produced by The Missouri Bar, Missouri Press Foundation, and your newspaper

Salute to Veterans

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School students show their appreciation for veteran continued

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Mrs. Groose's class

By Patrick
We honor our veterans because....
They are brave.

By Cohen
We honor our veterans because....
They are nice.

By anonymous
We honor our veterans because....
They are brave.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School CLASS??

By Hattie
We honor our veterans because....
They keep us safe.

By Jaxon
We honor our veterans because....
They keep us safe.

By Maeiyn
We honor our veterans because....
They save.

By Ada
We honor our veterans because....
They help us.

By Wade
We honor our veterans because....
They save us.

By Emmett
We honor our veterans because....
They are nice to me.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Mrs. Belshe's class

Thank you for your service....

Dear veterans,
Thank you for saving us.
Sincerely,
Gabe

Dear veterans,
My grandpa Bill was in the Army. He was good at his job. I love you grandpa
Sincerely,
Oliver S.

Dear veterans,
We thank you for helping us.
Sincerely,
Isabelle V.

Dear veterans,
We celebrate veterans past and present. We honor you!
You are brave!
Sincerely,
Emery C.

Dear veterans,
My papa Delbie was in the Army. Thank you papa Delbie. I love you!
Sincerely,
Indy E.

Dear veterans,
Thank you for keeping our country safe.
Sincerely,
Carson L.

Dear veterans,
Veterans keep our country safe. Thank you for defending us.
Sincerely,
Derrick A.

Dear veterans,
Thank you for all the things you do for us.
Sincerely,
Brandy V.

Dear veterans,
I hope the country stays safe. Thank you for being brave.
Sincerely,
Carter B.

Dear veterans,
Thank you for keeping our country and city safe.
Sincerely,
Jayton H.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Ms. Hoecker's class Veteran Acrostic poems

By Ellie S.

V - Victory
E - Epic
T - True to your country
E - Endurance
R - Republic
A - Allegiance
N - Nationalism

By Romie G.

F - Freedom
L - Liberty
A - Appreciation
G - Glory

By Brenna G.

H - Honorable
E - Epic
R - Respectful
O - Optimistic
E - Exciting

S - Super amazing
By Oliver H.

H - Honor
O - Oneness
N - Nationalism
O - Opportunities
R - Respect

By Tre

N - Native
A - American
T - Thoughtful
I - Invincible
O - Official
N - Noted

By Nicholas V.

N - Native
A - Army
T - Together
I - Independence
O - One
N - Nationhood

By Brody S.

H - Honest
O - Opulent
N - Nationalistic
O - Opportunities
R - Respect

By Anna B.

V - Volunteers
E - Enlisted person
T - True hearted
E - Enlisted man
R - Ready to fight for our country
A - Always ready for anything
N - Nationalism

By Jacob E.

N - Nation
A - America
T - Tribe
I - Issues
O - One
N - Neighborhood

By Gus P.

N - North
A - American country
T - Together
I - Intelligent
O - One
N - Neighborhood

By Alayna W.

A - Acceptance
M - Military
E - Epic
R - Red, white, blue
I - Independence
C - Country
A - Always loyal
N - Nationalism

What Veterans Day Means to Me

By Madelyn D.

Veterans day is always very special to me. On Veterans

Day we honor all the people who served in the military. Veterans have fought for our freedom, while being away from their families.

They have risked their lives for us to have freedom. I know a lot of people who have been in the military and made it out perfectly fine. But I also know people who lost a family member in the military. Veterans Day should not be the only day that we honor veterans. We should honor veterans each and every day.

Interview with Adrian Russell
By Jessi W.

Why did you enlist?
Didn't like college and it was something that I always wanted to do.

What dates did you serve?
September 18, 2010 to May 31, 2016.

What branch did you serve?
Army Airborne.

How many deployments?
Three deployments, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

Longest deployment?
Ten months in Afghanistan.

Greatest experience?
Meeting life-long friends.

Worst experience?
Watching your friend losing his life in front of you.

Who was your boss?
Lieutenant Carter Wasm.

Where were you at boot camp?
Fort Benning, Georgia.

Who did you miss the most while you were away?
Family, but mostly my two daughters Bentley and Shane.

How long did it take you to be staff sergeant?
Twelve weeks of boot camp and four years to become an E-6.

Where were you stationed?
Anchorage, Alaska, and Fort Riley, Kansas.

What was your job?
11 bravo and infantry.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School Mr. Vandike's class

Veterans Day
By Shane B.

Veterans day is important to me because it recognizes all the active and former military veterans and all that they do for us that goes unnoticed. Veterans protect us and our country every day from other things threatening our country and our safety. Veterans day is celebrated to notice all the veterans, their bravery, patriotism, love of our country, and their willingness to serve our country and sacrifice themselves for our safety.

We honor all those currently surviving and those who have passed away while they were protecting our country. The Veterans Day National Ceremony, like most ceremonies around the nation is held on Veterans Day itself. Although, when Veterans Day is on a weekday, many communities choose to have Veterans Day parades or other celebrations on the weekend before or after November 11 so that more people can participate.

Veterans Day
By Natalie G.

Why do we celebrate Veterans Day? We celebrate veterans day to honor all the veterans who served in the military. What are veterans? A veteran is a person who has served in the military, naval, or air force, and who is discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

Why Veterans Day is important to me is because we are thanking men and women that serve in our country to protect us. We thank the veterans because they risked their lives for us. When soldiers go into war they go in there not knowing if they will come out alive. We really appreciate all the veterans.

HAPPY VETERANS DAY!

What Veterans Day Means to Me
By Alex H.

What Veterans Day means to me. It means I am free to live how I want to when I want. Veterans Day is a day for celebrating my great-grandpa Preanger and Mossen.

Veterans Day means going to my great-grandpas' grave site and putting flag on their graves. I also get to see my family. It means having fun and celebrating my family that is in the Army.

It also means hanging out with my dad on the river fishing. Or hang out with my grandma and grandpa at a fundraiser for the veterans. Or sitting at home relaxing with mom.

What Veterans Day Means to Me
By Jacob B.

Veterans Day is a very important holiday. Veterans Day is important because we honor the people that served for our country and fought for us. It's when we thank former and active veterans for what they have done.

My grandpa was in Vietnam. My grandpa went into the Army when he was young. He is still alive, but he has Alzheimer's now.

We wouldn't have been alive if it wasn't for our veterans. They are the reason we have our country. You should always support our veterans for what they have done for us.

Veterans Day
By Clarice W.

Veterans Day is important to me because most of my family members are veterans. My two brother are in the military and so was my grandpa. Veterans Day is really important to me because the person I was named after died in war. We celebrate Veterans Day by having a BBQ some years and remembering those who served our country.

Veterans Day
By Braden E.

Veterans Day is important to me because they served our country and let us have all these wonderful things. My great-grandpa was in World War II. He was a supply truck driver. He never was on the front lines but saw many things that happened over there. He was an interesting guy and always wore one glove. I'm not sure why but he did. He told me many stories. He passed away, but I'm glad



Army Medal of Honor

Navy Medal of Honor

Air Force Medal of Honor

The United States has a history of honoring military duty with decorations dating back to the Fidelity Medallion in 1790. During the Civil War, Congress established the Medal of Honor for the United States Navy and Army. The Air Force's Medal of Honor was established in 1965. The Medal of Honor is only conferred to members of the United States Armed Forces for actions of conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. There have been over 3500 recipients of the Medal of Honor, with several awarded in 2018. Donald E. Ballard is our state's only living Medal of Honor awardee, so honored for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, 16 May 1968

Each branch of the Armed Forces awards a Service Cross for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor. The United States' Army Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded over 13,600 times. The Navy Cross has been awarded more than 6300 times. The Air Force Cross has been awarded over 200 times.

The Coast Guard Cross was established in 2010 to honor service members' extraordinary heroism in action, while not operating under the Department of the Navy. It has yet to be awarded.

The Silver Star is the third highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor or a Service Cross.

There are many other types of decorations, such as Superior Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medals or medals for non-combat heroism. The Purple Heart is one of the most well-known medals and is awarded for being wounded or killed as a result of enemy action. More than 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been presented to service members since the award was created in 1782.

Take time to remember the men and women of our Armed Forces, not only during November but every day.

Learn about the history of Veterans Day

Service members make numerous sacrifices in defense of their countries. While the debts to service members may never be the kind that can be repaid in full, paying tribute to veterans, on Veteran's Day and throughout the year, can be a great way to show them just how much their efforts are appreciated.

Veteran's Day begins with Armistice Day

Veteran's Day is a byproduct of the end of World War I, when Germany and the Allied Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ceasing fighting and establishing terms of peace. On November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the signing of the treaty, the first Armistice Day events were held. Armistice Day was initially a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I only, states History.com.

The United States Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday starting in 1938. However, in 1954, after the country had been embroiled in both World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by renaming the commemoration "Veteran's Day" to honor veterans of all wars.

Veteran's Day in October?

According to Military.com, for a short time, thanks to the Uniform Holiday Bill, which in 1968 established three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating national holidays on Mondays, Veteran's Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October — the first being October 25, 1971. However, many people did not agree with this decision, continuing to honor the holiday on the original date. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a new law that returned Veteran's Day to November 11 beginning in 1978. Since then, parades, memorial events, volunteer efforts, and other celebrations revolving around veterans have been held on November 11.

Veterans around the world

Many countries, including the United States, celebrate veterans on or near November 11. America's closest neighbor to the north, Canada, commemorates veterans on Remembrance Day (also November 11), as does the United Kingdom. Britain also has Remembrance Sunday, which is the second Sunday of November. Remembrance Day also is called Poppy Day, when people of the Commonwealth member states wear a red poppy flower in honor of military members who have died in the line of duty.

Paying tribute

There are various ways to honor veterans on Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day. Federal government closings, educational efforts in schools, parades, and visits to military hospitals or cemeteries may take place. In Europe, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veteran's Day and its sister holidays mark the honoring of veterans of all wars, with a particular focus on living veterans. It is a day to celebrate the dedication and selflessness of hardworking military men and women.





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World War I

The First World War

One hundred years ago, a conflict erupted in Europe that over the next four years seeped around the world, pitting countries against each other in the first global war.

On June 28, 1914, the leader of Austria was killed and its country declared war on Serbia, the country responsible for the murder. Countries were linked together with treaties, swearing to protect each other, so one by one, they stepped on either side of the battle line.

The **Central Powers** which included Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey),

began fighting against the **Allied Powers**, France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and finally, the United States, among others, along with their colonial holdings.

World War I reshaped the world in fundamental ways. A century later, this Newspaper In Education series offers a historical look back on the conflict that was intended to be "the War to end all Wars."



Americans Volunteer

More than 2,000 Americans volunteered for the war effort with the American Ambulance Field Service, later known as American Field Service (AFS). World War I was one of the first major conflicts in which modern medicine, like X-rays and advanced surgery, was used to save lives.

TIMELINE

Year	Event
1914	Aug. 4 The United States declares neutrality in the world's war.
	Oct. 22 The Commission for Belgium Relief (CRB) is founded by Herbert Hoover. The CRB distributes millions of tons of food to civilians in Belgium and northern France.
1915	Feb. 4 Germany begins unrestricted submarine warfare.
	May 7 The <i>Lusitania</i> is sunk.
1916	Aug. 8 Under the leadership of Army Officer Leonard Wood, the first preparedness training camp is held at Plattsburgh, New York, with nearly 1,200 trainees.
	March 15 General John J. Pershing leads the Punitive Expedition into Mexico.
1917	June 3 The National Defense Act of 1916 is enacted.
	Nov. 7 President Woodrow Wilson is re-elected.
1918	Jan. 31 Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.
	Feb. 3 The U.S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
1919	Feb. 25 U-boats sink the ship <i>Laconia</i> and eight American lives are lost.
	March 1 News of the Zimmermann Telegram makes the press in the United States.
1917	April 1 German U-boats sink the American steamer <i>S.S. Aztec</i> .
	April 2 President Wilson delivers his war message in a historic joint session of the House and Senate, stating that the world must be made "safe for democracy" and asks for a declaration of war.
1918	April 6 Congress passes the resolution and declares war against Germany.
	May 13 Congress passes the Selective Service Act.
1918	June 25 First American troops land in France.

American Neutrality

The United States did not enter the war until 1917, however, it hardly remained "neutral" despite its official stance. Americans raised funds for both Allied and Central Powers, volunteered to fly, fight and heal — and shipped millions of tons of both relief and war goods to Europe.

"The United States must be neutral in fact as well as in name during these days that are to try men's souls."

— WOODROW WILSON, 1914



Over Here

By 1916, most Americans believed the war "over there" was not theirs to fight and in November, Woodrow Wilson was re-elected under the slogan

"He kept us out of war." In December and January, while negotiating peace with Mexico, Wilson also attempted to negotiate a peace between Germany and the Allied Powers without success.

Proclamation of War

On the evening of April 2, at a joint session of Congress, President Wilson shared one of the most important speeches in American history.



His speech received enthusiastic applause from Congress. On the morning of April 6, both houses of Congress approved and the United States declared war against Germany.

Unifying Effort

Earlier doubts among Americans about entering the conflict gave way to an outpouring of enthusiastic support. A national mobilization effort called on every man, woman and child to "Be Loyal," "Do Your Bit," and help the country in its hour of need. Within

months, the war effort transformed the nation. Industries switched to producing munitions, uniforms and weapons. Millions of men joined the armed forces over the next two years.



U-Boats & the Lusitania

Winning a war depends upon supplies and in 1914, Great Britain's blockade across the North Sea and the English Channel cut the flow of war supplies, food and fuel to Germany. In February 1915, Germany responded with new technology, submarine U-boats (unterseeboots), to destroy neutral ships supplying the Allies.

On May 7, 1915, German submarine *U-20* torpedoed the *Lusitania*. Nearly 1,200 men, women and children, including 128 Americans, lost their lives. The Allies and Americans considered the sinking an act of war. The Germans asserted the *Lusitania* was carrying war material, but stopped its use of "unrestricted" submarine warfare until February 1, 1917.

Supply Shortages & Unrestricted Warfare

By January 1917, the Russian military was weakening from shortages in food and military supplies. More

than a million German combatants had died, and hundreds of thousands of German civilians perished from starvation. German military leaders

reinstated unrestricted submarine warfare, hoping it would end the European stalemate, but knew it might draw the U.S. into war.



Learn more about what started World War I at: www.theworldwar.org/June28
Download a companion teaching guide at www.mo-nie.com using code: **WWOneTeach**

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VETERANS DAY

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